

125 YEARS
1853 -- 1978

THE ANNIVERSARY BANNERS

GREETINGS . . .

By the grace of God, St. John Ev. Lutheran Church has celebrated its 125th anniversary. Our celebration took place under the theme "The Lord Hath Helped Us Hitherto." The theme comes from an incident in the life of the Children of Israel, as recorded in 1 Sam. 7:12.

The Israelites had faced a serious challenge at the hands of their enemy. In a miraculous way, God intervened and enabled His people to celebrate a victory. A stone was erected with the inscription, "Ebenezer." That Hebrew word is translated, "Hitherto the Lord hath helped us."



Rev. Rolf A. Buchmann

What fitting words for our celebration. As Christians, we believe in a God who has helped, and will help in the future.

God has helped. Our faith is rooted in a God who came to our aid when we were hopelessly lost in sin. The greatest evidence of His willingness and ability to help is revealed in our Lord Jesus Christ.

His perfect life for us under the Law, His substitutionary suffering and death for our sins, and His glorious resurrection, show how great was His helping love for sinners.

God assisted our forefathers to establish a congregation. More recently He helped our congregation build a facility that bears witness to the God who has helped us in the past. Our founding fathers sacrificed in many ways to enable us to worship, to learn, and to grow in the buildings we have come to enjoy.

In the past, God has blessed the ministry of Word and Sacrament, so that our congregation has witnessed a steady growth in members and a steady growth in spiritual life. What a great part our Sunday School and Christian Day School have played in providing a steady diet of God's Word.

We are thankful for the promises of God to be our Helper also in the years to come. Certainly we need God's help in order to know our purpose for existing as a church and in order to help us carry out that purpose.

That purpose comes to us from the words of Jesus in Matt. 28:15, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Our reason for being a congregation is to help people become disciples

and to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. We must continue to learn that being a disciple and making disciples of others is the task of every member. May the Lord continue to bless our becoming better equipped for that task.

A continuing challenge is in our stewardship life. A church such as ours - out of debt - must see itself as being continually indebted to the Lord. We must become more aware of our financial responsibility in order to carry out the work of the Lord not only within our congregation, but also throughout the world through our financial support of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

May we rededicate ourselves to the Lord who has given such great evidence of His help in the past. With our faith in Him, we go humbly and confidently into the future, praying that we may be ever more faithful to our calling as "living stones" in God's temple. May each of us continue to witness by words and deed that our God truly is "our Help in ages past and our hope for years to come."

In Christ,

Pastor Buchmann

The Lord hath helped us hitherto
By His surpassing favor;
His mercies ev'ry morn were new,
His kindness did not waver.
God hitherto hath been our Guide,
Hath pleasures hitherto supplied,
And hitherto hath helped us.

We praise and thank Thee, Lord, our God,
For Thine abundant blessing
Which heretofore Thou hast bestowed
And we are still possessing.
Inscribe this on our memory:
The Lord hath led us graciously
And hitherto hath helped us.

Help us henceforth, O God of grace,
Help us on each occasion,
Help us in each and ev'ry place,
Help us thro' Jesus' Passion;
Help us in life and death, O God,
Help us thro' Jesus' dying blood;
Help us as Thou hast helped us! Amen.

OUR HISTORY

The 125 year history of St. John congregation goes beyond these years and has its roots in Prussia, in what we know today as East Germany.

In 1817 the Emperor of Prussia, Frederick Wilhelm III, instituted a state church. Lutherans were imprisoned or fined and private services had to be held in homes if the Lutheran people wanted to worship in fellowship with other Lutherans. The Emperor's son, Frederick Wilhelm IV, who came to power in 1840 repealed some objectionable laws and eased up on religious persecution. However, Lutheran baptisms, confirmations, and marriages still were not recognized and it was difficult to get a job.

Against such a background, two Lutheran pastors, Pastors K. Ehrenstroem and A. Kindermann, encouraged their Lutheran people to seek religious freedom and better economic conditions in America. Organized under these two pastors, about 1600 German Lutherans pooled their funds and made preparation for their journey.

The trip was begun by boat from the Uckermark region in Prussia to Hamburg. Here Pastor Ehrenstroem was imprisoned because of his impassioned sermon in opposition to the state religion. Pastor Kindermann and his large congregation continued their journey to America on Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 1843 on six sailboats - the Kammonsham Roy, Hualco, Rainbow, Reform, Harmony, and Sophrina. The group included two teachers. The Kammonsham Roy arrived in the Port of New York on August 18 and the last boat, the Sophrina, arrived on September 13. Our people proceeded up the Hudson by steamboat to Albany and crossed New York State westward via the Erie Canal. As part of our 125th Anniversary celebration, our school choir demonstrated this journey in song.



German Lutheran Emmigration

The Erie Canal

Will we make it? Indeed we shall! Heading west on the Erie Canal.
Ev'ry single German guy and German gal, Heading west on the Erie Canal.
We've seen some hardship in our day As we've travelled on our way,
This is the home stretch now we know, From Albany to Buffalo.

REFRAIN: Low bridge! Ev'rybody down!

Low bridge, for we're going thro' a town!

And we'll always know our neighbor, we'll always know our pal!

As we do our navigating on the Erie Canal

We'll worship God! Indeed we shall! Heading west on the Erie Canal.
Church and School for ev'ry Lutheran guy and gal.
Heading west on the Erie Canal.
We let King Wilhelm have his say - This is the start of our new day.
We're not sure where we're going to go --
It's someplace close to Buffalo. REFRAIN

Finally, the travellers arrived in Buffalo and were welcomed by Lutheran Pastor A. A. Grabau who had come from Saxony in 1839. In October of 1843 500 of the emigrants purchased 2,800 acres of land from Land Agent Washington Hunt, who was later to become governor of New York State, in the Bergholtz-Johnsburg area. Mr. Hunt donated a portion of land to build a church in Bergholtz. On November 19, 1843, the "German Ev. Lutheran Church of New Bergholtz in the Town of Wheatfield was established. The journey to their new home had taken four months -- our people had endured hardship, persecution, sickness, and death in the name of religious freedom.

The first shelter for the several hundred people was a lumber barn and to survive the first winter, 25 log houses were built which accommodated four or five families. The following spring and summer, individual homes were built on 120 acre lots.

During the first year, Pastor Grabau from Buffalo came to preach and minister to our people. In 1844 Pastor Ehrenstroem, who had been imprisoned in Hamburg, arrived in America and again served as pastor. In 1845 he was succeeded by Pastor Heinrich Von Rohr from Ontario. Pastor Von Rohr was a former officer in the Prussian Army and had aided and accompanied Pastor Grabau in emigrating to America in 1839. Also in 1845, the congregation joined the Buffalo Synod as a charter member.

During the early years, worship was conducted in the large homes of the village and a large barn furnished for worship. School was conducted in various homes by Teacher Stoewasser. In 1847 the first church building was dedicated and at this time the congregation was named the Heilige Geist Kirche or Holy Ghost Church.

The land in the Johnsburg area along Ward Road and Niagara Falls Boulevard, then called Alder Creek Road, was originally purchased to provide land for later emigrants and was called "Little Bergholtz." However, economic conditions forced some of the original Bergholtz settlers to move to farms in the Johnsburg area or Johannis-



Pastor Von Rohr

burg as it was called then. By 1846 these people found it necessary because of distance and travel hardships to open a branch school from Holy Ghost served by Teacher August Hoge. By 1853 the German Lutherans in our area felt it necessary to have a place of worship in their midst and began construction of a church building.

So it was that on December 18, 1853, 74 families including 82 school children and Teacher Hoge transferred to and dedicated The German Ev. Lutheran St. Johannis Church at St. Johannisburg on the Ward Road. A description of that memorable occasion was printed in the Buffalo Synod's "Kirchliches Informatorium" or Information Sheet (made available courtesy of the Historical Society of North German Settlements in Western New York) and excerpts follow:

"CHURCH DEDICATION IN JOHNSBURG, NEW YORK, 4th Sunday in Advent, the 18th of December, 1853. On the above mentioned Sunday, the new St. John church of the Lutheran settlement was dedicated to the worship of the Lord. The faithful congregation, rejoicing because of the many visiting guests from nearby New Bergholz, gathered at 9:30 with the school children in the school and in nearby residences. They began to sing 'All Praise Now God's Faithfulness.' Then Teacher Hoge of St. John's and Teacher Rehwald of New Bergholz went with the school children and the Choir to the church door, where they greeted Pastor Von Rohr, Grabau, and Wier and the congregation. Pastor Grabau opened the church door with the words of Psalm 122, 'I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord. Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.' . . . The new congregation was formerly one with the mother church of New Bergholz and branched off as a daughter from the mother as the congregation received a plot of 10 acres through the kindness of the mother congregation . . . As soon as the faithful congregation is able to build a parsonage, they will call a Pastor. Until then the pastor from New Bergholz will serve the new congregation with Word and Sacrament . . . The Lord our God bless this new congregation in a faithful confession of the saving truths for posterity. The church is a brick building, 40 by 60 feet, with a tower."

Pastor Rohr from Holy Ghost served as our pastor for the first five years. Incorporation papers for our church were signed February 11, 1854 by Trustees Christian Proefrock, Johann Dreger, Henry Krueger, and Frederick Sahnow.

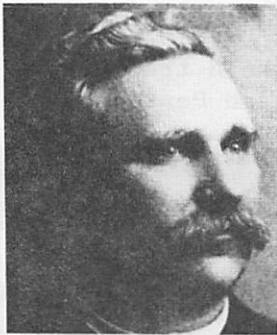
During the early years, it was common for church services to last from two to three hours. The ladies wore bonnets and custom dictated that women sat on the right side of the church and men on the left. School age children and young people up to age 16 were required to sit in the front pews for group instructions from the pastor.

During the pastorate of our second pastor, Pastor Carl Gram (1858-59), problems arose with a 1¢ a month fee for communicant members. Our minutes record "much discussion and many disagreements" over this. As a result on 2nd Pentecost Day, June 6, 1859, during a worship service, the Sheriff came and laid an injunction on the church. The church and school buildings were padlocked and services were conducted in a rented building. In September of that year our congregation joined the Missouri Synod and a new pastor, the Rev. Hugo Hanser (1859-67) accepted our call. The court finally decided in favor of the church and on March 15, 1861 our church and school were reopened with "much rejoicing and bell ringing" as the minutes record.



Pastor Hanser

For a brief time in 1868, we had as our pastor, the Rev. Johannes Walther, nephew of the Rev. C. F. W. Walther who was the first president of the Missouri Synod. From 1868 to 1872, the Rev. John W. Weinbach, pastor of Holy Ghost Lutheran Church, also served as our pastor. He was followed by the Rev. F. W. Oestermeyer (1872-77), the Rev. F. W. Schmidt (1877-80), and the Rev. W. Linsemann (1881-83).



Pastor Dorn

In 1887 we resolved to build a new church on the site of the old one. Stones were quarried out of the Charles Mabon Stone Quarry in Pekin by the men of our church and hauled by horse-drawn sleigh. The original church building was razed in the spring of 1888. All of the bricks were salvaged and used for construction of the new walls. Our second church was dedicated November 25, 1888 during the pastorate of the Rev. Herman Dorn (1883-89). After three years of discussion and debate our second school was built in 1897 and dedicated in the fall of that year when the Rev. F. Engelbert (1889-04) was pastor and John D. Schultz was teacher.

The church setting in the early 1900's included a concrete step block sitting in front of the church to permit a graceful exit for passengers from horse-drawn buggies, oil lamps, coal heating, and a pump organ. Ladies sat on one side of the church and men on the other. A Young People's Society seems to have been the only organization active at this time. Our pastors included the Rev. C. Kuehn (1904-07), the Rev. Martin Toewe (1908-12), and the Rev. Wm. G. Albrecht (1913-19).

In 1920, the Rev. J. Walter Thiemecke accepted our call. Prior to this time, he had served mission congregations in Palmer Rapids and Purdy, Ontario. Pastor Thiemecke was to serve our congregation for the longest span of time -- 39 years -- and retired with a special service of



Pastor Thiemecke

In January, 1941 the Pastor was authorized to put out a weekly Sunday bulletin at \$50.00 per year.

April of 1942 saw the discontinuance of the long-held tradition of special services the 2nd day after Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost.

It is of interest to note that a Debt Fund existing in 1942 was changed to a Building and Improvement Fund (a fund which was revived in 1978).

A special Victory Day Service was held on V-E Day in May of 1945. Two of our young men gave their lives in service to our country during World War II.

In January of 1948 the Voter's Assembly authorized the use of a new "The Lutheran Hymnal" adopted by the Missouri Synod. Also in 1948 the church organ was remodeled.

It had been the custom to ring the church bells one hour before the start of worship services. This was discontinued in 1949.

A new parsonage was built on the site of the old one and dedicated on March 13, 1955.

The name of the "German Ev. Lutheran St. Johannis Church at

gratitude and praise held for him June 28, 1959. He continued as Pastor Emeritus of our congregation until he was called to his eternal rest on September 27, 1972.

Prior to the ministry of Pastor Thiemecke, all services were conducted in German. Pastor Thiemecke began weekly English services along with the German although few attended. German services were discontinued in October of 1959.

A few items of interest occurring in the years from 1920-1959 include the following:

In April of 1929 the use of weekly envelopes was adopted.



100th Anniversary

St. Johannisburg" was officially changed to "St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church U.A.C., St. Johnsburg" on April 19, 1955. In recent times the use of "St. John" has become more acceptable than "St. John's."

With the pastorate of the Rev. C. W. Rabe (1959-71), our congregation embarked on a bold venture. Under his leadership in May, 1961 our members resolved to begin a Fund Raising Drive for the purpose of constructing new facilities. With the theme "Let Us Rise Up and Build" and with the assistance of a professional fund raising agency, a three-year drive was established with approximately \$134,000 being pledged by our members before building plans were finalized.

At the end of three years, actual pledges and contributions received amounted to approximately \$110,000. The congregation then established another two-year drive with a goal of raising another \$75,000. A Building Committee was appointed consisting of Christian Schulmeister, Chairman; Walter Ziehm, George Kratts, Ervin Moeller, Benjamin Mueller, Clarence Wolf, Clarence Heuer, and the Rev. Rabe. In addition, an investment committee was appointed to invest funds until needed.



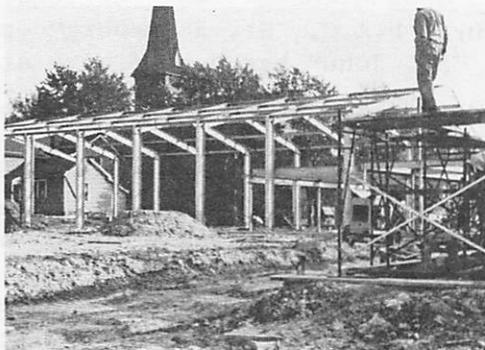
Pastor Rabe

After considering sketches submitted by three architectural firms, the Building Committee recommended to hire Cannon, Thiele, Betz, Cannon, Shackleton, and Fitzgerald. Plans were then drawn for the construction of a new church, parochial school and gymnasium to be constructed on the site of the present church, school and teacherage. Additional property was purchased from Mr. John Bluhm, one of our members, adjacent to our property. On May 20, 1965 we entered into an agreement with V. J. Licata and Peter D'Ambrosio Contractors for the general building construction at a cost of \$381,068.84.

Ground was broken on June 6, 1965. In addition the congregation agreed to construct a new teacherage on property on Lemke Drive donated by the Fred Lemke family. Walter Ziehm was hired as the general contractor.

Contributions had continued to raise our Building Fund to \$149,000 by June 1, 1964. In addition, our congregation received a large bequest from a member, George Schuler, which amounted to approximately \$123,000. However additional funds were required and the Investment Committee was authorized to obtain a loan not to exceed \$240,000. The congregation accepted an open mortgage loan with Marine Midland in September, 1965.

The service for the Laying of the Memorial Stone was held on April 24, 1966. The 1966 school year began in the new facility and the new teacherage on Lemke Drive was dedicated on November 6, 1966. Final services in the old St. John Church were held November 13, 1966 and services were held in the new gym in the interim.



Under Construction

The new facilities were dedicated on December 18, 1966, also the 113th anniversary of our congregation. On January 26, 1968 a loan agreement was signed for \$195,000 at 5½ interest rate per annum with a 12-year amortization payment schedule at \$1,805.40 per month. The first payment was made February 1, 1968 with the final payment made December 1, 1977. Monies from the Schuler Estate along with other substantial gifts, bequests and memorials made it possible to complete payment in 10 years, also reducing total interest cost by \$5,354.46.

In October of 1971 Pastor Rabe accepted a call to Wisconsin and our congregation experienced an extended vacancy of 19 months. During this time, St. John again called on the "mother" church, Holy Ghost, to lend their pastor, the Rev. Albert W. Bahr, as interim pastor. With Pastor Bahr we began participation in "Lutheran 30," a weekly radio broadcast on a rotating basis with five area Lutheran churches.

On May 13, 1973 St. John installed its present pastor, the Rev. Rolf A. Buchmann. Pastor Buchmann graduated from Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Illinois in 1968, taught at Concordia High School and College in Portland, Oregon and served as pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in Scranton, Pennsylvania. In October of 1973 he spearheaded our congregation's involvement in the Kennedy Evangelism Training Program. He also organized and directs the St. John Gospel Singers, a folk choir with members of all ages.

Our church interior took on a more finished look with the dedication of chandeliers on January 5, 1975. Other notable improvements to the facility had included the Carillon Tower, a paved parking lot, and the finishing of the Sunday School area in 1968. Also, in 1978 a sanctuary light was dedicated.

In early 1978 our congregation was moved to authorize the sponsorship of a Vietnamese Refugee family and has since sponsored two families. The plight of refugee families is a matter of national concern and it seemed most appropriate that in St. John's 125th anniversary year, we respond to this human need for people from another country as we ourselves

looked to America so many years ago as a refuge from religious persecution.

Our Christian Day School and Sunday School as well as the various organizations of our church serve as important arms of our congregation in ministering to our own members as well as members of the community. The organizations provide a means for our people to work and fellowship together as members of the body of Christ in special areas of service -- the Ladies Aid, Men's Club, Altar Guild, Youth League, Parent-Teacher League, Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Gospel Singers. An account of each is included in the following pages.

In the fall of 1977 our congregation designated a 125th Anniversary Committee consisting of the staff and representatives from the various Boards and organizations. The theme "The Lord Hath Helped Us Hitherto" was chosen and four activities were planned to highlight the 1978 Anniversary year:

- 1) Mortgage Burning Service - April 16, 1978
- 2) Christian Education Observance and History Presentation - June 11
- 3) Confirmation Reunion Service - August 13, 1978
- 4) Festival Service of Praise & Thanksgiving and Dinner - December 17

A brief synopsis of each event and pictures are presented in the following pages.

It is significant that various anniversary milestones in our congregation's history have been celebrated under the theme "The Lord Hath Helped Us Hitherto," as even this, our 125th Anniversary is.

The fabric of our congregation's history is woven with baptisms and confirmations, marriages and burials, and the individual joys and sorrows of each of our members. Interwoven are the failures and successes we have experienced in our congregational life. It is threaded throughout with the service of faithful and dedicated pastors and teachers. Our history continues to be written even now and we gratefully acknowledge that we were, we are, and we will continue to be "God's People Serving Him Here!" Our 125th Anniversary song expresses this thought (Tune - This is My Country):

Our heritage is rooted in a continent across the sea,
To worship our God freely was our right,
When this freedom was endangered, we left our Germany,
Entrusting our long journey to God's might.

Refrain: We are God's People, Serving Him here,
We are God's People, Holding Him dear!
One-hundred twenty-five years, He's shed on us His grace,
For we are God's people To shine from this place.

Give thanks for church and home and our new life--America, our land,
 For the Word preached true all these many years,
 For leading us in ev'ry trial with His guiding hand,
 For richest blessings in our joys and tears.

Refrain: We are God's People, Serving Him here,
 We are God's People, Holding Him dear!
 One-hundred twenty-five years, He's shed on us His grace,
 For we are God's people To shine from this place!

BUILDING AND REBUILDING



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C H R I S T I A N D A Y S C H O O L

Christian education for children had an early start in the life of our church. Even on shipboard in emigrating to America, children attended "school" in as regular a fashion as could be expected.

After settling in Bergholtz in 1843, school was conducted in various homes by Teacher August Stoewasser. Because some of the Bergholtz settlers moved to the Johnsburg areas as noted previously, a branch school was opened in this area in 1846. In 1850, Teacher Stoewasser moved to Wisconsin and Teacher August Hoge served both the Bergholtz and Johnsburg areas as teacher.

When St. John Church was dedicated on December 18, 1853, Teacher Hoge transferred from Holy Ghost to St. John and so the first St. John School became officially known as such with one teacher and 82 students.

Little is known about the activities or teachers of our school from 1853 to the late 1800's. Two of the teachers included J. F. Heinrich Krueger and Ferdinand Rickert.

In 1894 discussion was begun on the possibility of building a new school. Our second school was finally built and dedicated in 1897 when John Shulz was teacher.

Peter Schultz followed as teacher until 1911 when Teacher Rudolf Bargmann was called to serve. School enrollment was greatly increased during his tenure since the Bargmann's had 17 children.

William von Renner was our teacher for the 1923-24 schoolyear followed by Teacher August B. Huebner in 1924. Teacher Huebner served our congregation for 18 years until January of 1943.

Our teachers had been assisted by various people including Miss Laura Meier, Martin Freer, and Mrs. Huebner. In 1940 Teacher Howard C. Rowsell, a graduate of Concordia Teachers College in River Forest, was assigned to our school. Mr. Rowsell became the Principal in 1942 and taught here for 11 years. Assistant teachers during this time included Mr. Harold W. Rock, Miss Elvira Preuss for 3 years, Miss Mildred Gall, Miss Albertina Rosen, Miss Phyllis Nieting, Miss Esther Tegler, Mrs. Molly Pankow, and Mrs. Edna Reed.



Howard C. Rowsell

In 1951 Teacher John A. Jaeger from Evanston, Illinois accepted our call and remained here until 1954. Teacher Jaeger was especially known and respected for his expertise on the organ. The school was remodeled in 1951 and the local newspaper described it as "one of the brighter scenes.

along N. Falls Blvd." Mrs. Bernt Ruediger taught the lower grades for the 51-52 school year and Mr. Jaeger's wife, Ruth, taught the next two years.

Mr. Henry Albrecht was added to our staff in 1954 and served in various capacities until 1962. For a brief time he served as Principal and was assisted by Mrs. Ruth Robinson, William Snyder, and Mrs. Victoria Hacker. A Parent-Teacher League was begun when Mr. Albrecht was serving as Principal in 1956.

In 1957 Mr. Erwin Bangert from North Judson, Indiana was called to serve as Principal. Under his direction, a Kindergarten was begun in 1960 with 19 pupils in the upstairs area of the school which had been finished off in 1953. Mrs. Doretta Grawe from St. Mark Lutheran Church, North Tona-wanda was our first Kindergarten teacher and has continued as such with the exception of the 1971-72 school year. When Mr. Albrecht left in 1962, Mrs. Edith Lemke and then Mrs. Marlene Hohman taught until 1964.



Erwin Bangert

Mr. Bangert looked forward with great expectation to the move from the old school to our present facility in 1966 and was instrumental in planning the myriad details involved in the move. Teacher Bangert was called to his eternal rest while on vacation August 11, 1966. Mr. Terry Zuch, a 1964 graduate of Concordia Teachers College at Seward, had been called as our lower grade teacher in 1964 and was now named Acting Principal. Mr. Zuch became responsible for the move to our new school facilities. Mrs. Sandra Stuchwisch, wife of a teacher at Holy Ghost School, was hired to teach Grades 1-4 for the 1966-67 school year.

In 1967 Mr. Carl T. Koehnke, a former principal of St. Mark Lutheran School and noted educator and musician accepted our call as Principal and teacher of Grades 5-8 and Mr. Zuch again taught Grades 1-4. Ill health forced Mr. Koehnke into retirement in December of 1968.



Jerry L. Saller

Mr. Jerry Saller, a January, 1969 graduate of Seward, was thereupon assigned as Principal and teacher of Grades 5-8. Under the leadership of Mr. Saller an intensive drive to recruit pupils was undertaken and enrollment increased by 25 pupils. The need for a fourth teacher was evident and in 1970 Miss Kathleen Miller, a graduate of Seward, was assigned to teach grades 1-2. Mr. Zuch resigned from the teaching minis-

try at the end of the 69-70 school year and Mr. Terry W. Estel, a 1969 graduate of Seward and teacher at Victor, Iowa accepted our call as teacher for grades 3-5 with Mr. Saller teaching Grades 6-8. Mr. Saller resigned as Principal in May, 1971 and Mr. Estel was named Acting Principal and then Principal for the succeeding year. He has faithfully served in that position since that time.

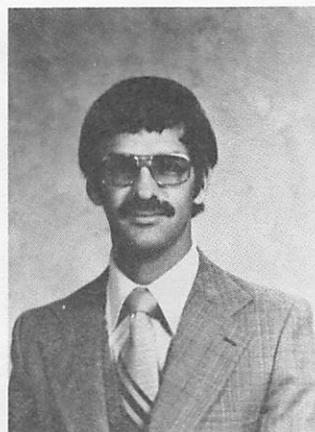
Mr. Dexter Hoyer was called to teach Grades 3-5 in 1971 and his wife, Connie, taught Kindergarten for the 71-72 school year. By 1975 we had reached a record enrollment of 106 students and a fifth teacher was added to the school staff, Miss Jackie Heinitz. There were now two classes per teacher with grades 1-8 occupying all four of the upper floor classrooms. This necessitated the move of the Kindergarten class to the Sunday School area.

Mr. Hoyer was called to be principal of St. Peter's Lutheran School in North Ridge in 1975 and Miss Jane Herfurth, a 1975 graduate of Buffalo State and member of Grace Lutheran Church, Niagara Falls, was hired to teach Grades 5-6. Mrs. Louise Spahn, wife of the Rev. Thomas Spahn from neighboring St. Mark Lutheran Church, was hired as a replacement for Miss Heinitz in 1976. Mrs. Kathy Stange (the former Kathleen Miller) resigned in 1977 and Miss Barbara Treichler (now Mrs. Huber), a graduate of the State College at Brockport, was hired to take her place as teacher of Grades 1-2.

A two day a week Nursery School for 4-year olds was begun with an enrollment of 18 children under the leadership of Mrs. Bettina Buchmann, wife of our present pastor, in September, 1973. In 1975, Mrs. Grawe, our Kindergarten teacher, assisted by Mrs. Norma Wallace, took over the teaching responsibilities for the Nursery School. For the 1978-79 school year an additional two-day a week class for 4-year olds was begun.

During the tenure of Mr. Estel, school enrollment has stabilized at between 95-105 pupils and St. John has gained a reputation for quality education in our community.

Evident from the history of our school is the growth that has been achieved with God's blessings. With the faithful support of the members of St. John congregation and dedicated teachers, our school will continue to provide the best possible Christian education in meeting the academic, spiritual, social, and emotional needs of each child with a special emphasis on the love of Jesus Christ, the greatest teacher of all time.



Terry W. Estel

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Our
Sunday School
Staff

Our first Sunday School Class with an enrollment of 15 children was conducted April 13, 1947 and was only open to preschool children. On July 20, 1948 the Sunday School was opened to children of all elementary grades with the stipulation by the congregation that children enrolling must attend our Christian Day School.

LeRoy Stenzel was elected to serve as the first Sunday School Superintendent in July of 1949 and served in that position for 22 years. Other officers included Clarence Heuer, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Lois Oldenberg, Secretary, and LaVerne Harder, Treasurer. The Constitution was approved by the congregation on October 18, 1949.

On January 17, 1950 the congregation resolved to open the Sunday School enrollment to all children regardless of church affiliation.

Our Sunday School has experienced steady growth since its inception and a Jr. Bible Class for post-confirmation age was formed in April, 1950. In 1953 the basement in the old school was finished off to accommodate three classrooms. By 1959 four or five classes moved to the upper floor of the old St. Johnsburg Fire Hall and a teenage class was conducted in the downstairs barroom. Additional classrooms were made available at the old Wheatfield Town Hall on N. Falls Boulevard.

In 1970 LaVerne Harder was elected Sunday School Superintendent and served until 1977 when Ralph Rogers, our present Superintendent, was elected.

Our Sunday School has been able to maintain its program of Christian education without financial aid from the congregation. A strong sense for Missions since the beginning led them to set aside one Sunday a month for this purpose.

Our Sunday School has an enrollment of 140 pupils and we have 19 staff people at the present time. Officers besides the Superintendent, include Clarence Heuer - Assistant Superintendent, Miss Judith Stenzel - Secretary, and Mrs. Barbara DeVantier - Treasurer.

Our Sunday School is privileged to serve as an important teaching arm in the Gospel ministry of St. John congregation to our members and the community.

L A D I E S A I D

The Ladies Aid was organized January 29, 1925 with a membership of 14 ladies when the Rev. J. W. Thiemecke was pastor. The first officers included Mrs. August Heubner, President; Mrs. J. W. Thiemecke, Vice-President; Mrs. Charles Diehl, Secretary; and Mrs. Ben Toellner, Treasurer.

The first Bazaar was held November 7, 1925. This was the forerunner of the Election Day Smorgasbord which has become an annual event. The first Rummage Sale was held in 1942. Through such fund raising events, our ladies were able to finance the kitchen equipment in our present facility.

The Ladies Aid was instrumental in the start of our Lutheran Women's Missionary League and Altar Guild.

Our Ladies Aid now has 53 members. Most of the funds now raised are used for mission projects and special projects at St. John. We pray that the Lord would continue to guide and direct our activities.

Ladies Aid Officers

Carol Beck, Treasurer
Linda Muhl, V. President
Jean Licht, President
Rachel Licht, Financial
Secretary
Jan Estel, Secretary



Y O U T H L E A G U E

Our Youth League had its origins in a Young People's Society organized in 1914. The group met every Sunday and Thursday in the school.

On October 10, 1938 the Voter's Assembly gave permission for the Society to affiliate with the Walther League, a national youth organization of the Missouri Synod. For many years our organization was known as the St. John Walther League.

When the national Walther League organization was phased out in 1968, our young people remained organized as a Youth League. During the history of our youth organization one of the male teachers of our school served as advisor. In 1975, one of our lay members, Jon Muhl, volunteered to serve as a co-advisor along with our Principal, Terry W. Estel.

An annual Spaghetti Dinner in February has been a tradition for many years. More recently, the Youth have also directed regular Paper Drives throughout the year. These activities have enabled the Youth to be of help to our congregation in purchasing special items.

The Youth League has always provided an opportunity for young people to fellowship with each other in a Christian atmosphere and we pray that the Lord would continue to bless its activities.



Youth League Officers

Jon Muhl, Advisor; Douglas Siegmann, President; Diane Werth, Secretary; Ed Hathaway, Vice-President; Jill Rogers, Christian Growth Chairman; Terry Estel, Advisor
Not Pictured: Norma Moeller, Treasurer

PARENT-TEACHER LEAGUE

The Parent-Teacher League was organized October 26, 1956 with the following officers: Robert Schroeder, President; Clarence Heuer, Vice-President; Mrs. Howard Jagow, Secretary; Philip Moll, Treasurer; and Mrs. Dale Luther, Historian.

Throughout its 22 years the main objectives of the P.T.L. have been (1) to bring into closer relationship the home and the school, (2) to support any worthy endeavor furthering Christian Education, (3) to assist the congregation in promoting the physical welfare of our school and, (4) to broaden our understanding of the divine order, "Bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

The P.T.L. sponsors a Fruit Cake sale at Christmas and a Valentines Candy Sale. The proceeds from these projects have been used for many items for our school including a science table, gym equipment, color television, basketball and cheerleader uniforms, teacher aids, library books and shelves and a music program series.

P. T. L. - PRAY, TEACH, LISTEN - May the love of Christ continue to make us abundantly active and effective in these actions.



Parent-Teacher League Officers

Clarice Poerschke, Treasurer; Judy Murray, President;
Audrey Maerten, Secretary
Not Pictured: Mary Behnke, Vice-President

A L T A R G U I L D

The Altar Guild was organized in 1958 for the purpose of keeping the chancel furnishings prepared for all services. The duties include caring for the paraments, altar linens, Pastor's vestments, candles, flowers, and preparing for communion (the change from the common cup to individual communion cups was made in 1960.)

A flower calendar is placed in the narthex of the church so people may reserve the date on which they wish to provide flowers for the altar. The Guild is responsible for the special flowers and decorations for the Easter, Advent, and Christmas seasons.

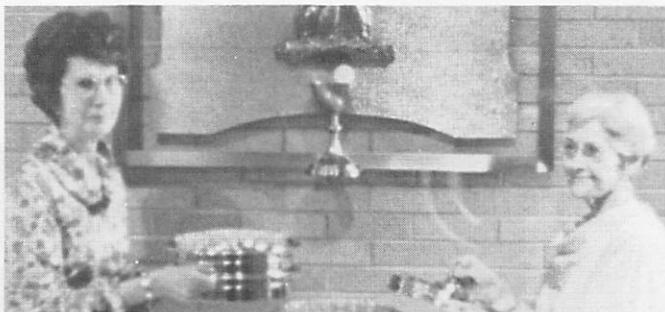
The Guild has 16 pew candlelabras which are used for special services as well as a wedding candle and the runner which are available for a nominal fee.

We have 18 women presently serving in this rewarding work for our Lord.

Altar Guild Officers

Ardis Wolf, Secretary-
Treasurer

Leona Schroeder,
President



ST. JOHN GOSPEL SINGERS

The Psalmist exclaims, "O sing unto the Lord a new Song!" God's people have always sought to express their faith and joy in the Lord through music.

In 1973 some beginnings were made to form a folk choir under the direction of Pastor Buchmann. Originally comprising of members of our youth, the group expanded to include people of all ages.

The name, "St. John Gospel Singers," was chosen in 1975. At present, the group is made of about twenty-five members. As the name suggests, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ by music is the purpose of the group.

Over the years, invitations have come from hospitals, nursing homes, and other churches for the Gospel Singers to present programs. They also share in our own congregation at special services and gatherings.

Members of the group introduce the songs with Scripture and personal testimony. Although most of the music is of the "folk" type, the Gospel Singers' agenda includes traditional as well as contemporary songs that glorify God and direct our praises to Him.



St. John Gospel Singers

M E N ' S C L U B

The St. John Men's Club was originally formed as a Bowling League with 32 members in 1944 with Erwin Stenzel as President, Ed Greinert Sr. as Recording Secretary, and Theodore Greinert as Treasurer.

In May, 1945 the purpose was broadened and a constitution was approved for a St. John Athletic Club. In 1950 the name was changed to the St. John Men's Club and Christ-centered Bible and topic discussions became a part of meetings. The Club also became affiliated with the International Lutheran Laymen's League.

From the purchase of one card table for the Ladies Aid in 1948, the Men's Club has a long record of purchasing audio-visual and duplicating equipment for our church. A major source of funding was the sponsorship of Paper Drives from 1944-77 (a project now sponsored by the Youth League) and an Annual Roast Beef Dinner which is still undertaken. Other major projects included final payment for electrifying and rebuilding our present organ, building a two-car garage, purchase of a snow blower, and installation of Tower Chimes and a Bell Ringing System.

Our Men's Club also provides a continuing service of worship tapes for our shut-ins and is underwriting the cost of the Lutheran 30 radio program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on WXRL (1300) on a rotating basis with

five area Lutheran churches (members and friends are invited to share in this cost through memorials and gifts).

Our Men's Club is privileged to serve our Lord Jesus Christ through the St. John Lutheran Church and welcomes others to share in this joy.



Men's Club Officers

Harold Heuer, Vice-President; LeRoy Stenzel, Secretary; Howard Jagow, President; Philip Moll, Treasurer

Appointed positions include LLL Membership Development Representative-Harold Heuer; Lutheran Hour Representative-Richard Musall; Lutheran Television Representative-Howard Jagow.

L. W. M. L.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League was established on July 9, 1942 as a Synodwide women's organization. The original objectives continue today: to develop and maintain greater mission consciousness among the women of Synod by mission education, mission inspiration and service and to adopt and support mission projects through prayers, cooperation, and financial aid, especially those for which there are no funds available from Synod.

The motto chosen "Serve the Lord with Gladness," characterizes the undertaking of a special work gladly, out of love for the Savior.

Here at St. John the League was begun in 1944 as part of the Ladies Aid group. Mrs. H. Strothmann was Leader. In 1951 the League was reorganized as a separate organization with Mrs. Leon Lindsey as Group Leader and Mrs. Norman Stange as Secretary-Treasurer. Since that time members have made the LWML Quarterly available to all ladies of the congregation.

Our women over the years have been of service to our church by collecting clothing for Lutheran World Relief, food collections, visiting the sick of the congregation, collecting Stamps for Missions, and collecting the mites used nationally and internationally for mission projects.

L.W.M.L. Officers

Norma Wallace, Leader

Viola Moeller, Christian
Growth Chairman

Esther Stange, Secretary-
Treasurer



Left: The Sr. Choir

Doretta Grawe, Director

David Werth, Accompanist

Right: The School Choir

Doretta Grawe, Director

David Werth, Accompanist



MORTGAGE BURNING SERVICE

Our Mortgage Burning Service was held April 16, 1978 at 3:00 p.m. with the Rev. Clarence W. Rabe, former pastor of St. John, as guest speaker and the Rev. Albert W. Bahr, pastor of Holy Ghost, and Pastor Buchmann as liturgists. Pastor Rabe chose as his text the words from Deuteronomy 32:11-12 -- "As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: so the Lord alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him."

The Parent-Teacher League and Sunday School hosted a pot-luck supper after the service attended by about 325 people. At the supper, the congregation surprised Pastor Buchmann with a gift in recognition of his 10 years in the ministry enabling him to carry out a work-study program in Germany during the summer of 1978.



The Processional

Pastor Rabe, Clarence Wolf, Benjamin Mueller, Walter Ziehm, Clarence Heuer, Winston Moeller, Ervin Moeller

The Ceremony of Mortgage Burning

Benjamin Mueller, Clarence Heuer, Clarence Wolf, Pastor Bahr, Pastor Buchmann, Pastor Rabe, Walter Ziehm, Ervin Moeller, Winston Moeller





The Dedication Plaque
The Building Committee
& Pastor Buchmann



Honored Guests
Pastor & Mrs. Bahr, Pastor & Mrs. Rabe,
Toastmaster Ralph Rogers, Pastor & Mrs.
Buchmann, Mrs. J. W. Thiemecke, Mrs. J.
Rogers



The Past on Display
Members and Friends
with the
spotlight on
Mrs. Mary Behne
&
Mrs. Elizabeth Lind



SURPRISE! Pastor Buchmann
Elder Howard Jagow Presenting
10th Anniversary Gift

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OBSERVANCE

On June 11, 1978 our two morning services focused our attention on Christian Education and the Rev. Arnold Kromphardt, Executive Director of Parish Services for the Eastern District LC-MS, was guest speaker. An afternoon program recounting the history of our church entitled "God's People - Rejoice!" was presented as part of our annual Church-School picnic activities. Various organizations and groups of the congregation participated and it was coordinated by the local Aid Association for Lutherans Branch.



Pastor Kromphardt



Terry Estel, Narrator



"King Wilhelm"
Jon Muhl



School on The Rainbow

Teacher - Howard Lutz
Pupils - Maria Buchmann,
Doreen Werth, Beth Donner,
Susan Poerschke (behind
Beth), Jon MacSwan, Rodney
Siegmann, Richard Donner



Sr. Choir Singing "Der Herr is mein
getreuer Hirt" - "The Lord is My
Faithful Shepherd"



Congregational Meeting
(early 1900's)

Harold Heuer
Terry Estel (background)
Pastor Buchmann
Ervin Moeller
Winston Moeller
Marvin Werth
Ed Greinert
Richard Musall

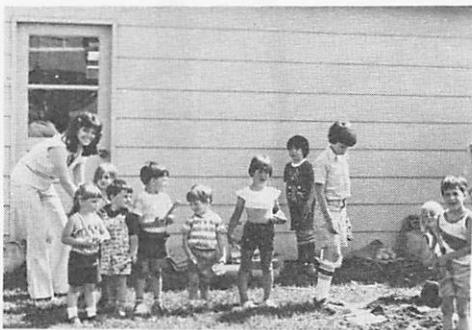


"Farmer in the Dell"
Kindergarten, Grade 1

THE
QUILTING
BEE



Rachel Licht, Linda Muhl,
Vivian Siegmann, Nancy Musall,
Jackie Rogers, Ruth Stange



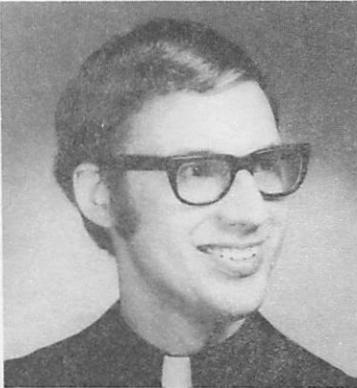
Jan Estel Leading Games



Chairman Darrell Miller

CONFIRMATION REUNION SERVICE

A Confirmation Reunion Service was held August 13, 1978 which 313 former confirmands, friends, and members attended. The Rev. Kent C. Stenzel, son of our congregation, conducted the service. The theme of his message was "To Be One in Christ" based on Romans 15:5-6. The L.W.M.L. was responsible for the contact of all the confirmands and the Men's Club and Youth League hosted an informal picnic after the service for over 300 people.



Pastor Stenzel



Confirmation Picture Display -- Gym



Chairman Winston Moeller
& George Stieg (oldest
male confirmand present)
- Class of 1901



Pastor Stenzel & Mrs. Minnie
Reackhoff (oldest confirmand
present) - Class of 1899



Chow Line in the Picnic Shelter



Mrs. Erna Stenzel
(Mother of Pastor Stenzel)



Kent Checking the Cooks-
Ralph Rogers & Howard Jagow



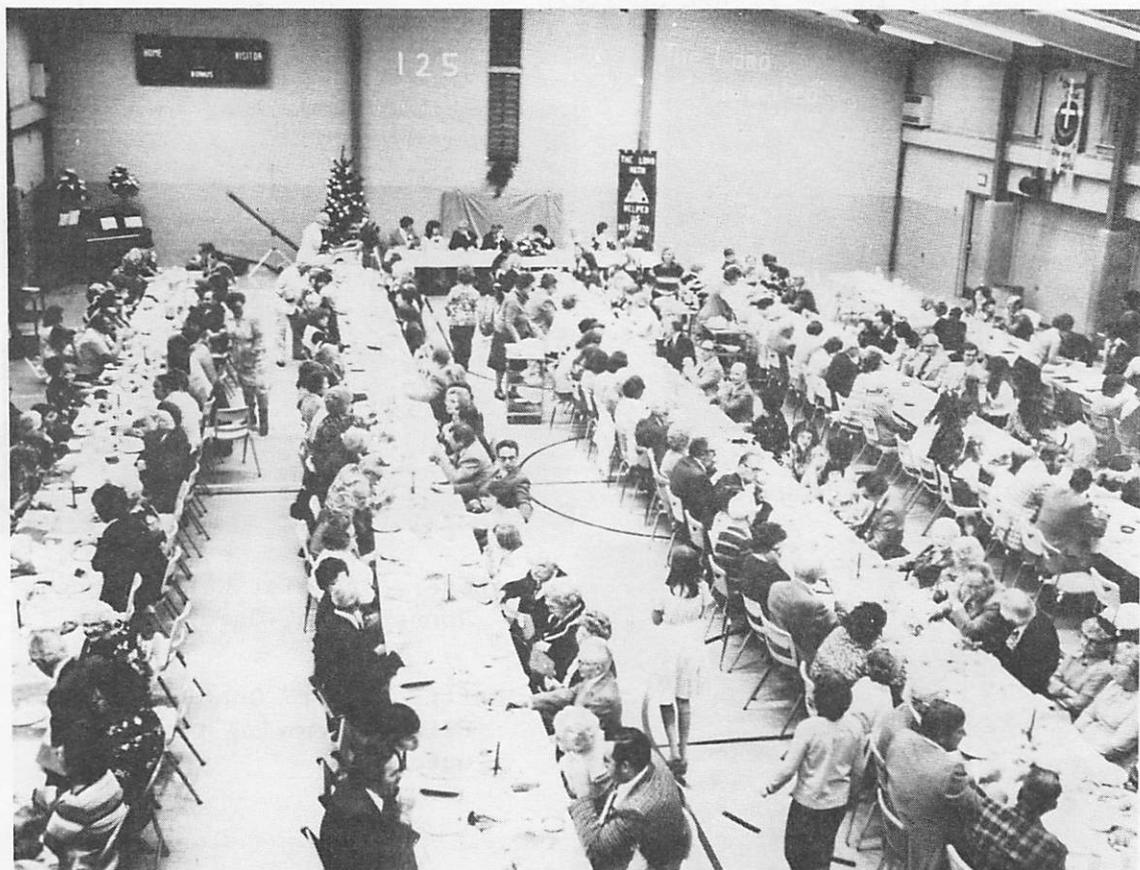
Above: Organist Kathy Stange,
Donna Werth, Carol Donner



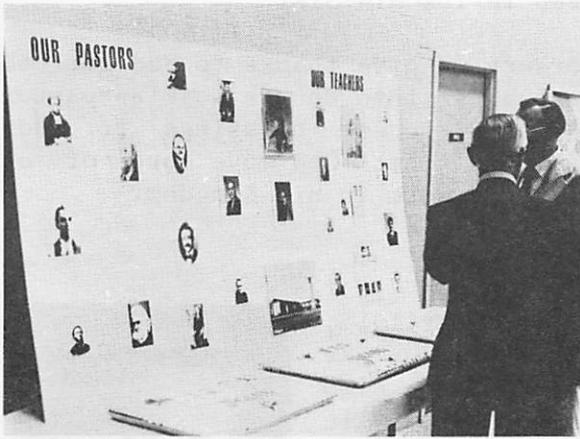
Left: Former Confirmands and
Friends enjoying the beautiful
outdoors

FESTIVAL SERVICE

The Festival Service of Praise and Thanksgiving was held on December 17, 1978 at 3:00 p.m. with the Rev. Albert W. Bahr as guest speaker and Pastor Buchmann as liturgist. Pastor Bahr chose as his sermon theme "Making the Proper Response" based on the text from Psalm 116:12 -- "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?" About 300 people attended the dinner following the service prepared by our Ladies Aid and served by the ladies from Holy Ghost. Pastor Buchmann prepared a special slide program entitled "What's Going On" depicting the work of our congregation. At the dinner the congregation took the opportunity of recognizing the 10th anniversary of Principal Terry W. Estel in the teaching ministry with a special gift.



The View from Above



Our Pastors - Our Teachers



Pastor Bahr



Surprise, Terry! - Ed Wallace



125th ANNIVERSARY CAKE CUTTING

Cheryl Jagow, David Jagow (youngest member present), Ella Lemke (oldest member present), Pastor Buchmann, Howard Jagow

Dick & Clarice Poerschke reacting to Pastor Bahr's joke on Clarice



OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN THE MINISTRY

On the occasion of our 125th anniversary we give thanks to God for the privilege of having two of our members enter into church work as pastors and three as teachers. We ask for God's richest blessings for those working in their chosen field now and pray that God move more of our young people to consider entering full time work in His Kingdom.

Rev. Ernest J. Scheibert

The Rev. Ernest J. Scheibert was born April 18, 1898, the son of Ernest and Hulda Scheibert. He was baptized and confirmed here at St. John and also attended our school. He was graduated from Bronxville in 1918 and from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in 1922. His vicarage was served as a teacher at St. Mark Lutheran School, North Tonawanda.



Pastor Scheibert was commissioned and ordained on August 30, 1922 here at St. John for service to the Lutheran Mission to the Deaf. He was assigned to the Detroit area and in 1923 was installed as pastor of Our Savior Congregation of the Deaf in Detroit. On January 10, 1937 he was installed as pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Chicago but served deaf Christians in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin. At one time he served the deaf in thirteen different places.

On December 30, 1923 he was married to Alma Stark from Bergholtz. The Scheiberts had two sons and five daughters. Our Lord gave Pastor Scheibert the strength and stamina to carry on a difficult but rewarding, active ministry for 45 years and claimed him for His own on August 19, 1977 after a short illness.

Rev. Kent C. Stenzel

The Rev. Kent C. Stenzel was born July 19, 1947 to Carl and Erna Stenzel. He was baptized here at St. John, attended our school, and was confirmed in 1961. He then graduated from Niagara-Wheatfield High School, attended Concordia Jr. College, Ann Arbor, Michigan and received his B.A. from Concordia Sr. College, Fort Wayne, Indiana. He graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 1973. His vicarage was served at Trinity Lutheran Church, Davenport, Iowa.

Pastor Stenzel was ordained here at St. John on June 17, 1973 by Pastor Buchmann. His first call was to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Daykin, Nebraska. In November, 1977 he accepted a call to Zion Lutheran Church, Ashton, Idaho, his present parish.

Pastor Stenzel is married to the former Barbara Clark of St. Louis, Missouri. The Stenzel's have two children, Roger Douglas and Jimmy Scott.

It was our privilege to have Kent, as he is known by many of us, with us for the Confirmation Reunion Service in August, 1978 and we pray that the Lord would continue to bless his ministry.

Bonnie Moeller Noack

Bonnie Moeller Noack was born here May 1, 1944, daughter of Ervin and Viola Moeller. Bonnie was baptized and confirmed here. She attended our school and graduated from Niagara-Wheatfield in 1962. In 1966 she graduated from Concordia Teacher's College, Seward, Nebraska. Her first call was to Holy Cross, Emma, Missouri where she taught lower grades for three years.



Bonnie was married on June 25, 1966 to Larry Noack, a 1965 graduate of Seward, who was assigned to St. Paul, Concordia, Missouri, where Bonnie also played organ in addition to teaching at Emma. In 1976 Larry accepted a call to St. John Lutheran Jr. High School in Lincoln, Nebraska. Bonnie has temporarily shelved her teaching plans as she cares for the four Noack children -- Bethany, Michael, Holly, and Jonathan.

Candace Mueller Shaw

Candace Mueller Shaw was born February 11, 1946 daughter of Benjamin and Elva Mueller. She was baptized and confirmed here and attended our school. Upon graduation from Niagara-Wheatfield High School, Candace attended Seward and graduated in 1967.



For three years she taught lower grades at St. John, Orchard Park, New York. From September, 1971 to January, 1973, she taught Grade 1 at St. Paul, North Tonawanda, and from September, 1973 to June 1978 she taught Kindergarten at Immanuel, Bristol, Connecticut. In November

of 1978 Candace began teaching Kindergarten at Trinity Lutheran School in Spring, Texas.

On June 21, 1969 Candace was married to Roger L. Shaw. The Shaws have a three-year old son, Benjamin.

Dawn Mellenthine

Dawn Mellenthine was born February 22, 1955, daughter of Donald and Sophie Mellenthine. Dawn was baptized and confirmed here at St. John. She attended the Niagara-Wheatfield elementary schools and graduated from the High School in 1973. Dawn graduated from Concordia College, Bronxville in 1977, second highest in her class.



Dawn accepted a call to Concordia Lutheran School in Hyattsville, Maryland where she teaches first grade. She is a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Hyattsville.

* * * * *



Left: Girls' Basketball Team

First Row - Sue Zimmerman, Jill Rogers, Mary Sawyer, Suzette Musall

Back Row - Diane Werth, Terry Licht, Chris Broniszewski, Norma Moeller, Michelle Toellner

Coach - Ed Wallace

Right: Boys' Basketball Team

In Action - Dark Uniforms

Ed Hathaway
Tim Siegmann (# 10)
Doug Siegmann
Jim Brown
Greg Martin

Coach - Mike Schaffer



CHURCH COUNCIL



First Row: Marvin Werth, Secretary; Winston Moeller, President; William Murray, Trustee; Harold Heuer & Ben Mueller, Elders

Second Row: Howard Jagow, Elder; James Krull, Assistant Financial Secretary; Ralph Rogers, Sunday School Superintendent; Robert Schroeder, Bd. of Stewardship; Elton DeVantier & Sherwood Herman, Trustees; Ken Henry, Assistant Treasurer

Back Row: Wallace Pankow, Head Usher; Alvin Lemke, Cemetery Superintendent; Gary Andrees, Bd. of Education; John Licht Jr., Bd. of Evangelism; Wesley Herman, Bd. of Education; Howard Lutz, Elder; Frank Cornell, Bd. of Education; Douglas Stange, Financial Secretary; Donald Proefrock, Bd. of Education

Not Pictured: Ed Greinert, Treasurer; Ed Wallace, Bd. of Education; Darrell Miller & Wayne Herman, Trustees; James Siegmann, George Barnett & Roy Seiwel, Jr., Bd. of Stewardship



Left:
Kathy Stange,
Organist



Right:
June Werth,
Secretary

GREETINGS FROM THE PRINCIPAL . . .

God is still with us. Contrary to what some may say nowadays, our gracious Lord and Savior has been and continues to bless, guide and direct St. John congregation as it continues to do His will.

May we ever keep doing what our Lord commands as we grow in grace over the next 125 years. And may we continue to train our children in His Word and experience not only growth in numbers, as in the past few years, but also growth in our knowledge and understanding of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Terry W. Estel



Our Faculty

Terry W. Estel, Principal
Miss Jane Herfurth, Gr. 5-6
Mrs. Louise Spahn, Gr. 3-4
Mrs. Barbara Huber, Gr. 1-2
Mrs. Doretta Grawe, Kindergarten & Nursery School

OUR YOUTH LEAGUE

In Song

"Juanita"

125th Anniversary Program

June 11, 1978



125TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

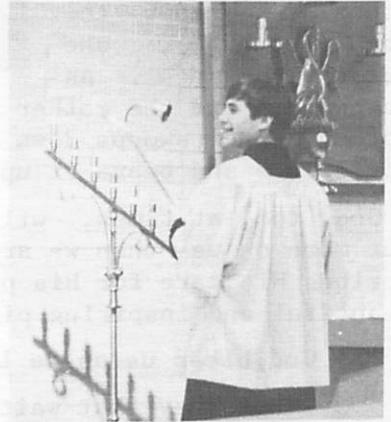


Seated: June Werth, Sophie Mellenthine, Doretta Grawe, Don & Jean Licht
Standing: Millie Andrees, Harold Heuer, Bob & Leona Schroeder, Winston Moeller (Chairman), Howard Jagow
Not pictured: John Licht Jr., Norma Wallace, Gary Andrees, Donna Werth, Richard Musall

ACOLYTE STAFF



First Row: Mary Sawyer, Pam Lindaman,
Greg Woodcock
Back Row: Mark Wallace, Rich Donner,
Jay Siegman, Paul Chase



At Work

O U R S Y M B O L

Our founding fathers chose "St. John" as the name of our congregation. The symbol of St. John, the Evangelist, is the eagle, picturing the great heights of revelation to which his writings aspire.

The eagle reminds us of a number of truths of our relationship with the Lord, suggested by the habits and heritage of the eagle.

The eagle builds his nest in the clefts of the rock, in the crags of the mountains. The Lord Jesus is our "Rock of Ages," upon whom we can build our lives.

Another habit of the eagle is that of rising above the storms of life. The eagle takes advantage of the wind to soar high in the heavens. Using their strong wings, eagles rise above the fog, mists, and clouds. Strengthened by the Holy Spirit, we may also rise above the problems that even our problems our good.

An interesting habit strategy in dealing simply soars up out of self between the enemy our lives toward the enemies cannot harm

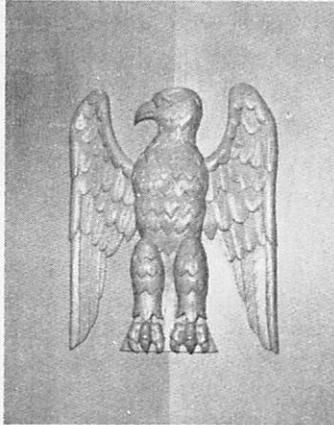
The fourth habit is young. When the ones to fly, she out of the nest. As downward, and the mother sees that the baby cannot fly properly, the mother eagle swoops down swiftly and spreads out her wings under the little one and bears it up on her wings to safety.

God, too, at times, will put His people to the test, but He does not put more on us than we are able to bear. In Exodus 19:4, the Lord describes His care for His people, "I bear you on eagle's wings." What a beautiful and inspiring picture of God's care of His people.

May God bless us as we live our lives in His promise:

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings as eagles;
they shall run, and not be weary;
they shall walk, and not faint."

-- Isaiah 40:31



is shown in the eagle's with his enemies. He their reach and puts him- and the sun. As we direct Son, Satan and our other us.

the care given to the mother teaches the little pushes the baby eagles the little one flies



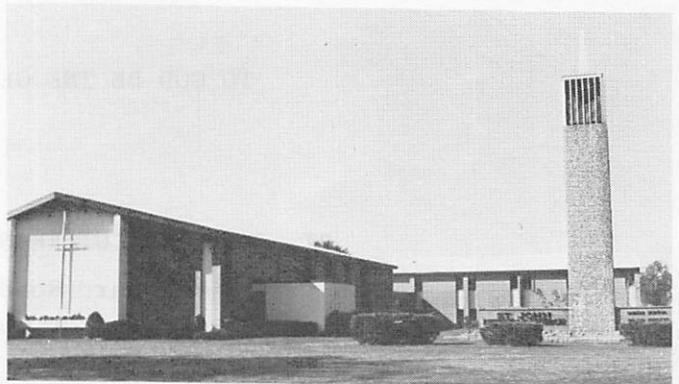
S T . J O H N



T H E O L D

A N D

T H E N E W



1853 - 1978

Baptisms	2,376
Junior Confirmations	1,532
Adult Confirmations	149
Marriages	726
Burials	1,016



TO GOD BE THE GLORY

ST. JOHN EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
6950 Ward Road
North Tonawanda, New York 14120