Church/Organization: St. John's Lutheran Church

800 RIDGE ROAD EAST Rochester, NY 14621

http://www.stjohnsrochester.org/

Years of Operation 1873 – present

Volume Title: <u>Anniversary 100 years, 1873-1973</u>

Film/Scan Location: St. John's Lutheran Church

800 RIDGE ROAD EAST Rochester, NY 14621

Dates Imaged: July 2014

Number of pages: 74

Notes: Except for blank pages that were not photographed or

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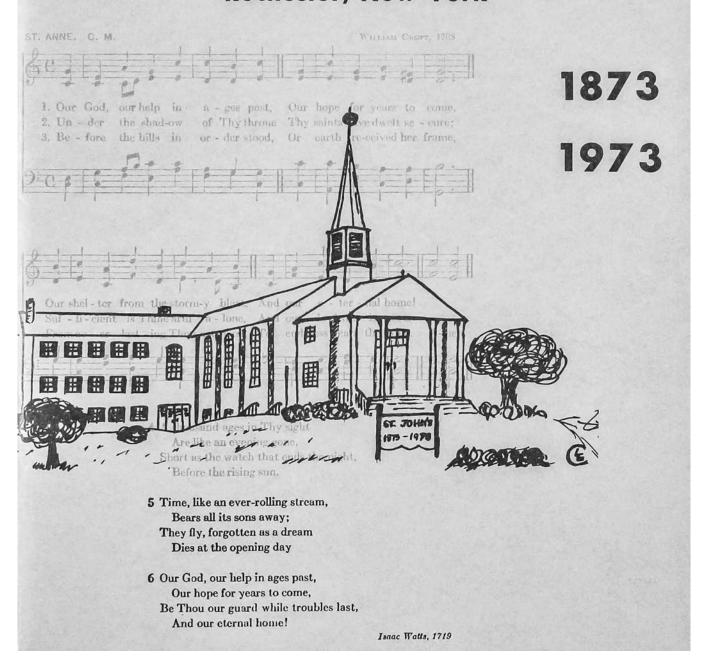
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# ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

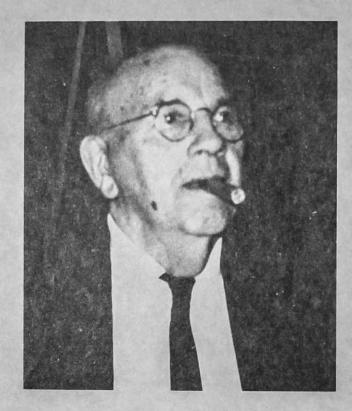
The Rev. George F. Haag, Pastor

800 Ridge Road East Rochester, New York

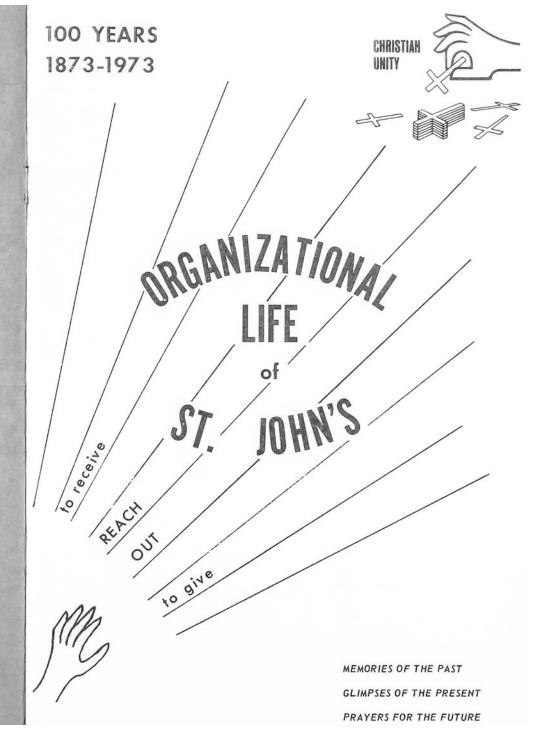


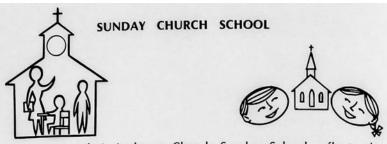
### ST. JOHN's LIFE

Dedicated to all members of St. John's with special attention to one whose life exemplifies real Christianity.



Richard Kerbs is a life member of St. John's, having been born in Rochester on November 23, 1898. He was baptized by Dr. John Nicum and confirmed by the Rev. Andrew Blum in 1912. Richard will be long remembered for his service to St. John's and his many deeds of kindness and love to its members. He has put his faith in action, attending Sunday School and church regularly and supporting all programs. He played piano for the Men's Bible Class and the combined Adult Class and was an active member of the Brotherhood. The Lutheran Summer School at Silver Bay is his favorite vacation spot. His interest in young people keeps him young. He shows his love for them with personal gifts on their confirmation day, and his ready smile and encouragement to look to the future. In his own steadfast way, he shows his Christian concern for all people.





St. John's Lutheran Church Sunday School reflects the changing life styles of its members. In an early report prepared by Dr. Nicum in 1889 there were 58 Sunday School teachers and 519 scholars. At this time the church Sunday School was the center of learning for the children and the adults. In the summer months of June, July and August the Sunday School met at 9:00 a.m. and during the other months classes were at two o'clock in the afternoon. The sessions lasted from 1½ to 2 hours and very strict discipline was enforced.

In 1891 the Sunday School contributed to the cost of installing the clock and bells "Gloria", "Hosanna" and "Angelus" in the new church towers of the Joseph Avenue Building. The Sunday School sponsored an annual Reformation and Mission Festival on a Sunday evening near October 31. There was great rivalry among the classes, as to which class would have the largest "Mission Collection", and scholars, teachers and parents filled the church to hear the results. For the past twenty years, an envelope system has been used and the mission contribution became part of St. John's benevolence program.

Christmas has always been the Festive Day of the year for Sunday School. During the early years it was an all day festival; the morning church service was attended by the children and adults; the afternoon program was presented by the young children; and in the evening the adult Sunday School had its big celebration with special program. A teacher or scholar was seldom absent, and books were presented to those having 100% attendance during the year. At the close of the service, all children and teachers received a paper bag containing an orange, some mixed nuts and tasty French creams. One Christmas night, there was added excitement when the crib under the huge tree caught fire. The tall tree reached the ceiling of the church and was lighted with large white candles and decorated with tinsel. The fire brigade, young men of the church armed with long light blow tubes and poles with wet sponges, quickly put the fire out and kept the congregation calm.

After World War I the afternoon and evening services were combined to make one large festive program. The church service on Christmas morning was discontinued in the 1930's in favor of the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. In the late 1940's the Church School Christmas program itself was moved to the Sunday preceding

Christmas. There were several years of evening programs and more recently the program was presented as a combined church program on the Sunday morning preceding Christmas. In 1967 the Senior Luther League was asked to present the Christmas Pageant to relieve the teachers who historically had directed the rehearsals, costuming, and other details. They have continued this service for the last seven years. The Sunday School also sponsors a St. Nicholas Party in December. All students are invited with those in the Senior Luther League helping to decorate and to plan games for the children, and those students in the Intermediate Luther League serving cookies and ice cream.

Many of St. John's present members recall meeting in the wooden school building (the Methodist Chapel before 1872). The Beginners and Primary Classes were held on the first floor. The upper classes were located on the second floor until the church basement was renovated in the 1920's and the "Main School" met there. The Men's Bible Class then met on the 2nd floor of the school building and the Ladies' Bible Class met in the large front room on the 1st floor. The two adult classes merged during World War II and continued meeting until after moving to the Ridge Road building. Sessions were discontinued when the new schedule of Sunday morning church services included a service at the same hour as Sunday School.

Rally Day and Promotion Sunday in June also provides another Sunday for children to worship with the adults. Programs have been varied in the past on these Sundays, with special recognition given to the children moving into the third grade,



receiving their own personal Bible. Summertime now finds only class sessions for the young children of Nursery and Kindergarten age.

Summer has always been picnic time, and in the early years the Church School picnics were held at Scheutzen Park which was located at Ridge Road corner Seneca Avenue. In the morning the

teachers and the children marched down Joseph Avenue, headed by two drummer boys. The



School banner was carried by a tall boy and the streamers of the banner were carried by two little girls. Then the pastor, Dr. Nicum, led the teachers and scholars who carried flying flags. Each one received a large sweet bun after arriving at the park. By noon parents arrived, and ham sandwiches, cake and coffee were enjoyed. Candy, cold drinks, popcorn and ice cream were sold at booths run by the

teachers. Games were played and Dr. Nicum conducted a questionand-answer contest with prizes for the correct answers.

In the 1920's the picnics were moved to Ontario Beach Park. The truck with all the picnic supplies arrived early in the morning and the fires were started by the church sexton. For many years, Frank Schnackel was responsible for brewing hot coffee which was served as well as milk at noon and again at the supper hour. Families brought their own basket lunches. Ice cream and cold orange drink, peanuts and suckers were distributed. All children participated in the afternoon races, and the adult games were in the early evening. The beach, the pier, and the merry-go-round could also be enjoyed on this day. More recently picnics have been sponsored by the church and held at Salem Park, on the church property and in 1972 and 1973 at Powder Mill Park. The Sunday School students still enjoy these outings and it has relieved the teachers and staff of the many responsibilities of planning. The day's program is still fun and games, and is enjoyed by the families who attend.

Many dedicated people have served as teachers and staff for the Sunday School such as Elsa Walter, Ruth Karweick, Elsie Eggert. Carl Adamek, Clara Kirchgessner, Richard Kerbs, Minnie Renckert, and Clara Zilinski as well as many of our deceased members. One beloved teacher, Edith Bucholtz, who had taught for forty years passed into Eternal Life one Sunday morning after singing in the choir at the German Service and then teaching her class. Among the Superintendents were William Markwitz, Clarence Offerman, Clarence Eggert, Edna Horler, Paul Muckstadt, Harvey Meyer, Roy Sharp, Kenneth Kosbab, Burton Conklin and Betty Larker.

Since the fall of 1969 when Betty Larker became Superintendent there have been several changes. Sunday School material was revised, and they are using an all-Lutheran Church in America curriculum. Confirmation has been changed to start classes in 8th grade with confirmation in the 9th grade, also following the program

of the Lutheran Church in America. This year on June 10, 1973 the 6th, 7th and 8th grade children after special instruction received their first communion, instead of waiting until after their confirmation. In the future, communion will be offered to the 5th grade children, and the first 9th grade confirmation will be on Pentecost Sunday, 1974.

Sunday Church School meets at 9:30 a.m., and the present teachers are: Nursery - Michael Emrich, Barbara Emrich, Karen Larker, Nancy Pohl; Kindergarten - Jean Schlageter, Lina Claus, Joyce Makohon; 1st grade - Gladys Street; 2nd grade - Elizabeth Schlageter; 3rd grade - Helen Gibbs; 4th and 5th grade - Dorothy Schlegel; 6th grade - Susan Burns; 7th grade - William G. Schlageter; 8th grade - John Wilson; 9th grade - Roy Sharp.



### **LADIES AID**

### SOCIETY



The Frauenverein which later became the Ladies Aid Society of St. John's Lutheran Church was organized in 1874. Its purpose was best described by former pastors who said, "If at any time the funds in our church treasury were low, and the coal bill had to be paid or something had to be purchased for the church, we could always depend upon the Frauenverein to help us." Whenever the church had to be cleaned, after painting or other alterations, the Frauenverein took over. Their annual sauerkraut supper was a high-light for the entire congregation.

For a good many years this Society had a death benefit clause in its constitution. Whenever a member died, the remaining members each paid fifty cents to the family of the deceased. This practice was discontinued in 1920.

The officers of the society faithfully visited the sick and shutin members and were always received whole-heartedly by them.

Meetings were always held on the 1st Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at the church. The meetings were conducted in German and dues were ten cents a month. A birthday bank to which each member contributed in her birthday month, made many small gifts a possibility to our church. The meetings were closed with the Lord's Prayer and Benediction by the pastor. After the regular business meeting, an enjoyable hour of listening to humorous German stories read by Pastor Schmieder and later by Pastor Kirsch made the effort of attending worthwhile. Kuchen and coffee were served each month.

The Ladies Aid Society held its final meeting in 1956 after St. John's congregation decided to have all English services. Members remained faithful to their church and continued their good works in either the Dorcas Society or Lutheran Church Women.





### THE BROTHERHOOD



St. John's Brotherhood was founded on February 4, 1877 with twelve members as the Junglingsverein. The object from its early days was to be not only a benevolent organization, but a fraternal organization to unite like-minded Christian men and develop them into faithful members of our church by fostering sociability, awakening and increasing the christian spirit, and developing and enriching the mind by useful knowledge. Original members were so eager to learn that they studied penmanship and arithmetic at their meetings. Debates were plentiful and rules were very strict; fines for infractions were meted out regularly. The language used until 1907 was German.

In 1924 they consolidated with St. John's Kranken und Sterbekasse, which was the older men's organization, and the combined group took the name of the Brotherhood of St. John's Lutheran Church with a membership of 155. During the pastorate of the Rev. Paul Schmieder, the Brotherhood prospered and supported Inner Mission work as well as the work of our own congregation and joined the Western Conference of our New York Synod. During the pastorate of the Rev. John Kirsch, the Brotherhood joined and supported the U.L.C.A. Brotherhood and the Synodical Brotherhood.

Deaths and lack of interest of younger men in joining the Brotherhood, together with social and economic changes, gradually caused the membership to decrease to the point where disbanding was decided upon as inevitable. Accordingly, after amending the Brotherhood constitution, by written vote, the remaining fifty-one active members regretfully disbanded a 93-year old organization. After all legitimate expenses were met, the funds remaining in the treasury were divided equally among the remaining members. After the May 1970 meeting, St. John's Brotherhood ceased to exist.

It is most fitting to mention the long time service of several officers. Charles W. Kosbab served as secretary from 1904 to 1929 and wrote over 400 letters to servicemen in World War I. During his lifetime he was also church secretary, secretary of the Wednesday Night Bible Class, Sunday School secretary, and teacher of the Men's Bible Class. Albert Kosbab was secretary from 1929 to 1954 and corresponded with servicemen in World War II and in the Korean War. He also attended to the details of the disbanding of the Brotherhood as acting secretary after the death of secretary William Beuth-

ling. Charles T. Klem served as Brotherhood treasurer for many years. The various presidents of the Brotherhood were William Markwitz, Frank Schuth, Clarence Eggert, Frank Schutte, Clarence Neun, Carl Adamek, and Edward Burbott who was the last president. All these men also served at various times on the church council.

While the Brotherhood was a sick and death benefit organization for the mutual benefit of its members, it also contributed to the worthy causes outside of its membership. The Young Men's Society defrayed the cost of a new church window in the old church in 1917, the VoxHumana organ stop in 1924, and they contributed generously toward the building fund of the new church.

It may be asked, "How could an organization have a life of 93 years?" "How could the Young Men's Society, started in 1877, continue through the hard times of 1893, the Spanish American War of 1898, the hard times of 1907, 1913-1914, World War I, the poor times of 1921-1922?" "How could the Brotherhood continue on during the depression 1930's, World War II, the Korean War and the Viet Nam conflict?"

The benevolent character of the Brotherhood and of the Young Men's Society kept them alive. Both organizations were benevolent, not only within but also without. They contributed to worthy causes outside their own membership. This is aptly spoken of in Proverbs 11:24 (translated from the German): "Someone gives benevolently and has always more; someone else withholds more than he should and becomes poorer."

As an auxiliary of the church, St. John's Brotherhood had a very useful life.





Troop 237 of the Boy Scouts of America is a result of Brotherhood action. Through the efforts of Joseph Bulavinetz, the troop received its charter with the Brotherhood as sponsor. The first Scoutmaster was Mr. Stenglein with six boys as charter members.

The troop has remained active and participates in Otetiana Council programs, as well as maintaining its own Camp Lond in Victor, New York. Their projects include service to the church as parking area attendants, serving at dinners and banquets, and packing clothing. The present Scoutmaster is Marvin Berner assisted by Donald Koester. There are 17 boys in Troop 237 as well as 7 adult members. Marlowe Frederickson and Ewald Koester are committee members.



### MUSIC THROUGH THE YEARS



Lutherans have always been noted for their beautiful musical contribution and participation in church worship. St. John's is not to be left out. Way back in the "Nineties" there was a brass orchestra, (Posaunenchor) consisting of eight men. The initial installation of a new pipe organ at our previous location was in 1904, with chimes added in 1923. St. John's was and is very fortunate in always having had dedicated organists and choir directors. St. John's choirs have also had dedicated, conscientious and reverent choir members. At the time of our 60th Anniversary (1933), there were three choirs: German, English and Sunday School, all under the direction of Carl Baumbach, who was also organist. The choirs always sang to the Glory of God — lending to the dignity and impressiveness of the church services.

The English choir rehearsed not only at choir rehearsals on Friday nights, but also at picnics and parties they would rehearse acappella. Many times at regular rehearsals, their music sheets were set aside and they recorded their voices to play back to correct mistakes. The music for Sundays was always chosen to relate to the lessons of the day. The words were read aloud before rehearsing the music to impress on them the message they were to sing. Carl was a dedicated Choir Director who expected the best (and usually received it) from the choir members. Some of the well remembered Christmas eve music consisted of "The Cherubim' Song"; "Glory to God in the Highest"; "Gesus Bambino"; "O Magnum Mysterium"; "Christmas Day"; and "Carol of the Bells". At the Wednesday evening Lenten Services, the choir sang prophetic verses. Lenten anthems included "Heavenly Light" and "Surely He Hath Borne our Griefs". "A Stronghold Sure" was the favorite Reformation Sunday Cantata. The choir also had the privilege of singing one of Carl Baumbach's own compositions - "None Other Lamb". He dedicated this anthem to "his choir". It was a joy for them to sing it. On the lighter side, the choir also performed musicals - "S. S. Hilarious"; "The Gypsy in Me"; and "An Old Kentucky Garden" featuring Stephen Foster music.

Carl Baumbach resigned in 1945 to become Professor of Music at Greensboro College in North Carolina. Lawrence Gill, former choir member, became the organist and choir director. He was concerned in keeping up the tradition of fine church music at St. John's. He proved a very capable and conscientious leader. The choir did

well under his direction. The tradition of good music was carried on by Paul Schaefer who directed the choir during St. John's Diamond Anniversary celebration. There was also a Youth Choir, led by Wilbur Stein, at this time. During 1955, John R. Savage was organist and choir director. He played for the services of Laying of the Cornerstone May 15, 1955 and also the Service of Dedication on December 4, 1955. The Confirmation Classes, directed by Sandra Janchuk, sang as a group for a number of years.

Presently, Sandra Janchuk is our dedicated organist. She has been organist since 1970 and is working with soloists and instrumentalists who are doing a fine job with their musical abilities.

A Chapel Choir was organized under the direction of Joan Hoffman in the fall of 1972, setting a goal of singing at special services during our 100th Anniversary Celebration. Being accompanied with organ and guitars, they have thoroughly enjoyed their singing. With the help of our youth (8 thru 13 years of age), Chapel Choir will continue to glorify God through song, in His House of Worship.

The following testimony from our Florida correspondent is so meaningful, it is being quoted:

"Music always has been a joy in my life. Feel I owe a lot of that joy to Mr. Baumbach's teaching and directing of music, and the guidance of wonderful ministers at St. John's."



"Don and I have carried that joy with us through our married life. The three boys and us singing in the choir at one time. Such a feeling of togetherness. Now when our boys sit in the congregation of church – they sing loud praises to God and to their Lod (and after all – isn't that what it's all about?). At this time, we are unable to sing in the choir, but we all hope to some day."

"Thanks for making us part of the 100th Anniversary."

Ethel Kasischke Kraft

Note: Ethel and Don were baptized, confirmed and married in St. John's. They became better acquainted through their active church lives and especially thru their love of music and singing. They moved to Titusville, Florida and are members of Trinity Lutheran Church.

### **DORCAS SOCIETY**

In 1887 an organization known as the "Jungfrauenverein" had a membership of 31. During the pastorate of the Reverend Andrew Blum its name was changed to the "Young Ladies Society", and during the first years of Pastor Paul Schmieder's pastorate, it was named "The Dorcas Society". Membership steadily increased in those years to over one hundred members in 1951.

The object of the society was to further the work of the congregation and to promote the social side of church life. In the past, meetings were the same night as Brotherhood meetings as a convenience for husbands and wives to attend meetings at the church together. Separate meetings of the organizations were held, and Dorcas refreshments were enjoyed by both the Dorcas and Brotherhood members.

In an effort to increase interest and also to raise money after the 1930 depression years, small groups were formed within the Dorcas Society. One of these groups developed as the Kitchen Group because whenever it was decided to have a dinner, the Kitchen Group was asked to prepare it. Although some of the original members are now deceased or illness prevents them from being active in the Kitchen Group, the remaining members are still preparing dinners with the assistance of others who were invited to join them.

The Dorcas Society has sponsored the annual Mothers and Daughters Banquet for more than forty years. Members of the Dorcas Society work hard on the Rummage Sales which are held twice a year. The Dorcas Society has made many monetary contributions to St. John's as well as donating the useful china dishes and cooking utensils in the kitchen.

The Dorcas Society membership is now small, but they still manage to provide for some of the needs of the congregation. Meetings are held at the church on the 2nd Tuesday afternoon of each month.



### **ALTAR GUILD**

The Altar Guild of St. John's Lutheran Church was formed in the year 1932 by Pastor Paul Schmieder with twelve ladies serving the church. The object of the Guild is to care for the sanctuary of the church. Their responsibilities are to furnish suitable vestments for the altar, to be custodians of the altar linens and all furnishings of the sanctuary, and to foster a better understanding of the liturgical heritages of the Lutheran Church.

The functions of the Guild are to inspect the altar and keep it properly. The altar linens and ornaments are kept clean and fresh at all times. A good thorough cleaning of the altar, communion rails, pulpit, lectern and baptismal font are done periodically. The day before the celebration of the Holy Communion, two members of the Guild will clean the sacred vessels, prepare the altar with communion linens and fill the communion glasses with wine, and place the communion bread on the paten and in the pyx. After the communion celebration is over, the sacred vessels are again cleaned and the glasses washed and put away in their appointed places; soiled linens are laundered by a member. The paraments (or altar cloths) are changed according to the liturgical seasons of the year. The colors are white, red, green, violet for the church seasons and black for Good Friday. Our pulpit fall and Bible book markers are in accord with the colors of the altar cloths. Altar ornaments, cloths and linens are replaced when necessary. Flowers that adorn the altar are provided by the voluntary support of patrons from the congregation and are sent to cheer the sick and shut-in members and friends of St. John's.

The Altar Guild meets four or five times a year. The directress speaks on the past performance of the Guild and about the future care of the altar for each service before the next meeting. The members volunteer for their share of the responsibilities. A free-will offering is taken which is used for candles, replacement of worn linens and other needs. The meeting is closed with prayer.

At present the Directress is Elizabeth Schlageter, who also has charge of the flower chart, and the Treasurer is Gertrude Heeder.





LUTHERAN

**CHURCH WOMEN** 

The Women's Missionary Society was organized on January 18, 1933, under the direction of the Rev. Paul Schmieder with thirty-six members. The 1933 officers were President - Alma Kubitz, Vice-President - Bertha Klem, Secretary - Marie Hennrich, and Treasurer - Martha Coleman.

The name of the organization was changed to "United Lutheran Church Women" on February 28, 1956, and on June 28, 1963, the name was again changed to "Lutheran Church Women".

Lutheran Church Women is an auxiliary of the Lutheran Church in America and is composed of synodical organizations in Canada, United States and several islands of the Caribbean Sea. They meet in convention every three years, and the Board of Directors who are elected by convention delegates, administers auxiliary affairs between conventions. "Lutheran Women" is the official magazine of Lutheran Church Woman and provides suggestions and ideas for programs.

The symbol of the L.C.W. is the descending dove. Since early Christianity, the descending dove has denoted the presence of

God's living spirit among his people. For Lutheran Church Women, it also represents the intention to be an instrument of the Holy Spirit to further and support the work of the church. The leaves are a symbol of growth and renewal as Lutheran Church Women provides opportunity for its members to grow in faith, in fellowship, and in service.



The purpose of this organization is to inspire the women of the church to become active in the full work of the Lutheran Church in America through: **Learning** of Christ and the mission of His church; **Witnessing** in their daily lives to their Christian faith; **Serving** the needs of others in the congregation and the community; and **Supporting** the total work of the church through prayers and offerings.

The Synodical Lutheran Church Women organization guides the district organizations within the synod. St. John's belongs to Upper New York Synod thru the Genesee Valley District. Conventions are held annually in different locations. The district includes Pittsford, Dansville, Lyons, Victor, Penn Yan, Webster, Kendall and Cohocton. They meet twice a year in spring and in fall. Their purpose is to provide help with local programs, and to develop leadership, as well as promote fellowship and inspiration.

St. John's L.C.W. organization is composed of three circles:

DEBORAH circle meets at the various members' homes on the fourth Monday of the month at 8:00 p.m.

FAITH circle meets at the church on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

NAOMI circle meets at the various members' homes on the second Thursday of the month at 8:00 p.m.

The circles vary in size from ten to twenty members. A planned program is presented; refreshments are served; and there is a period of fellowship. Three times a year all circles meet together at the church at a "Quarterly Meeting". The program usually includes a guest speaker or a film. A business meeting is conducted and refreshments are served.

Several areas of service in which St. John's members are active are: Church Women United, St. John's Home Auxiliary, Mt. Airy Seminary Auxiliary, Migrant Work, Nursing Home Service as well as making leprosy bandages, collecting clothing for Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, and preparing and serving Ministerium Breakfasts.



11

THE



### **LUTHERAN INNER** MISSION SOCIETY



Through the efforts of many people in Rochester, the Lutheran Inner Mission Society was organized in June 1933. Pastor Fred Heins was called as its first Superintendent and served the Society and community until 1944. This was a time of need for many unemployed and impoverished families. Pastor Heins had great empathy for the needy and often gave them money of his own. stretching his annual salary of only \$1800 very thin to support his family, including his wife's medical bills.

St. John's members were deeply involved in all phases of the work of the Sociey. Volunteers under the direction of Maynard Klem. were the mainstay of the operations. Lutheran church members in Rochester donated clothing, and a clothing store was operated by volunteers including Pauline Saeger, Martha Coleman, and George Haag. Part time secretarial work was supplied by Charlotte Rehberg and Eleanor Muckstadt; day-camp activities were instituted with Clarence Neun as chairman; Girl Scout programs were organized with Viola Krause as a member of the staff; Jean Bader was a counselor at the girls' camp; Mrs. Hermann Miller was a teacher in Religious Education and conducted classes in our church building for the Society; our Women's Missionary Society sponsored quarterly birthday parties at the Inner Mission Center; and the Luther League of St. John's gave birthday parties for the children throughout the year.

Clarence Eggert was a member of the Finance Committee in 1943, and that year St. John's gave \$862 to the Society. The contribution steadily increased to \$1089 in 1945 and \$1100 in 1946. Pastor Edward G. Goetz served as Superintendent from 1944 to 1948 when he left to accept a call to Atonement Church in Buffalo. Pastor George Heck then became Superintendent. Pastor Harold Haas, Pastor Carlson and Emily Kener served as assistants. The Rev. Albert Horn became Chaplain-Director in 1954 followed by the present Chaplain-Director Vernon B. Squire. These pastors often conducted services at St. John's and made known the needs of the Society.

In 1950 St. John's pledged \$1385 to the Society. The Women's Auxiliary, under the direction of Madalyn Koch had among its members Bertha Klem, Elizabeth Hill and Mrs. William Schindler. William Beuthling, George Schneider, Paul Muckstadt, William Schaaf and Otto Failner are among those who have served on the Board of the Lutheran Inner Mission Society. Otto Failner has also served as Property Chairman and has given many hours of time to the Society.

When property with space for increased facilities on Clinton Avenue was purchased in 1940 for \$5,000, the Brotherhood of St. John's loaned the Society \$1,000 at 4% interest. In 1954 the building was sold for \$24,000 and a new site was purchased on Phelps Avenue which became known as the Lutheran Center. Net worth of the Society was \$40,000! Dedication Day of the new property was celebrated with an address by the founder, Pastor Fred Heins.

Our church was sixty years old when the Inner Mission Society came into being, and as the years rolled by, St. John's had a big part in the work of the Society because our members were always ready and willing to use their personal talents and time.

A Vacation Bible School staffed by Esther Dense, Eleanor Wolff, Helen Gibbs, Lillian Kirsch, Eleanor Muckstadt, Harvey Meyer, Alex Kirstein, Pastor Kirsch and Pastor Goetz was held at St. John's for children of both Inner Mission and St. John's families. This was in conjunction with the summer program started in the 1930's which has continued to the present. Vacation Bible School was an opportunity for the children to have two weeks of daily lessons, crafts,



worship and refreshments. St. John's vacation school program is still planned for the children of St. John's, their friends and neighbors.

SOCIAL MINISTRY



IS INVOLVEMENT

Editors' Note: This article is included as being representative of a benevolent program of St. John's which has served the community. One which allowed the people to put their love for others in action.

13

### THE

### **LUTHER LEAGUE**



Luther League at St. John's started about forty years ago as an outgrowth of confirmation-aged boys and girls finding their place in the church. The Rev. Paul Schmieder supervised Monday afternoon game hours at the church. The boys formed a baseball team, found willing men to coach them, and joined a church baseball league. The team needed uniforms and equipment so the young people had ice cream socials to raise money – doing the planning and work while their parents, relatives and friends supported their efforts.

In 1937 Pastor Schmieder encouraged the Luther League to sponsor a birthday party, inviting all the members of the church to come and sit at tables decorated in a theme for each month of the year. Entertainment provided by each month's host was enjoyed by everyone. They later presented "A Gay Nineties Review" and in 1950 Gilbert Vitty helped them present their first minstrel show.

In 1942 Pastor Harold Haas and his wife Evelyn came to St. John's and helped organize the more recently confirmed members as the Intermediate League and the older members as the Senior League. Combined Sunday evening meetings at the church were well attended, and they learned to plan and develop their own programs. The group worked together on projects like packing Christmas boxes and delivering them with Christmas carols to the sick and shut-ins or packing and mailing packages to the servicemen. Luther Leaguers were unhappy when Pastor and Mrs. Haas left St. John's in 1943.

The Luther League girls corresponded with the young men who were called to serve their country in World War II. Clarence Neun had edited a monthly newspaper, "The Lutherette", and the girls continued its publication so St. John's people away from home could keep "in touch". "The Lutherette" took many long hours of writing, typing, mimeographing and distributing.

Before Pastor Schmieder left to accept a call to Philadelphia, the Luther Leaguers planned a surprise dinner and program for all of his confirmation classes in his honor. During the interim

without a full time pastor, the Leaguers promoted all their programs themselves. At Christmas they mailed each serviceman a candle in his package from St. John's, suggesting he light it on Christmas Eve. During the Christmas Eve service at the church, one candle for each serviceman was lit as a trib-



ute to their service to God and country. An alms basin, which is still used at St. John's services, was presented to the church and dedicated to these servicemen by the Luther League. St. John's Leaguers were among the first to invite the Rev. John Kirsch to a meeting when he came to Rochester. They had a welcome party for the Kirsch Family, inviting all members of the congregation.

Several of St. John's Leaguers served as officers in the Genesee Valley District and New York State Luther League organizations. Unity Rallies, spring and fall conferences, weekends at Rotary Sunshine Camp, and conventions throughout New York State were well attended by the Leaguers. With all of the activity, service to St. John's was the prime purpose of the Luther League, and members sang in church choir, taught in Sunday School, and helped in Vacation Church School. Walls in the basement were washed, choir rooms painted, cupboards cleaned, and the typing and mimeographing of weekly church bulletins and special mailings were all accomplished by Luther Leaguers.

In 1973 St. John's Luther League is an organization within the congregation that does answer basic needs of youth. In every other area of congregational life, the young person finds adult-led organization. Luther League offers young people the opportunity to govern themselves with a minimum of adult guidance. Its members set their own pace and dictate their own program. Today's Luther Leaguers have continued the Christmas caroling to sick and shut-ins. For the past six years, the Luther League has presented the Christmas pageant. The League has told the story of Christmas in many ways, from traditional to contemporary.

Luther Leaguers keep active packing boxes for Lutheran World Relief, presenting the Christmas Story to St. John's Home, making gifts for the nursing home at Easter, serving at dinners in the church, helping at the Sunday School Christmas Parties, and presenting devotional services. Their social activities include parties at the church, roller skating, bowling, movies, picnics and snow parties. For the past several years the Leagues have had a weekend retreat at Keuka Lutheran Camp or Vanderkamp. At these retreats the young people grow in fellowship, sharing the devotional programs and the social activities.

The future of the church is found in the young people. The young people gathered for a League meeting may in a few years find themselves gathered for a Council meeting.





### **FELLOWSHIP CLUB**

The Fellowship Club was organized in 1954 to serve the congregation with Food, Fun and Fellowship. The original steering committee elected was Eleanor Wolff, Chairman; Joyce Maxon, secretary; Jane Nesius, Treasurer; and William Beinke, Ruth Frank, Wilbur Stein, and Robert Wittmann, committee members.

The Fellowship Club has sponsored a bowling league which meets monthly on the 2nd Saturday at North Park Lanes. They have presented programs including the Birthday Party, Strawberry Social, Smorgasbord, Christmas Hymn Sing, Fish Fry and Pancake Supper.

Gifts have been presented to the church including a piano, candelabra for the chancel, stage curtains in the social hall, as well as money for many purposes.

Special emphasis was given to their programs in 1973 combining them with the 100th Anniversary celebration. The choir which was part of the Birthday Party program also sang at the Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services in church.

The present Chairman is Norman Kalenda, Viola Wehner, Secretary and Robert Wittmann, Treasurer.





### THE

### **XYZ CLUB**



The XYZ Club is a Senior Citizens group of St. John's Church, organized by Pastor Albert Horn in February of 1969 with twenty-five members. The initials XYZ denote extra years of zest.

They believe that the American dream of the aging process should not be spoiled by poverty, loneliness, and isolation. They feel programs and incentives can be provided so that the later years can truly be the "Golden Years".

The XYZ Club is affiliated with the senior council of the Lutheran Inner Mission Society. They support the bulletin for senior groups with their finances and cooperate in the Watson retreat, the combined picnic of senior groups with residents of St. John's Home as their guests. They assist in providing divine service and communion to the protestants at St. Ann's Home and in an emergency have taken over the service at Seneca Towers and St. Ann's Home. Once a year they join with other senior groups of the Inner Mission Society in a memorial service to honor members who have departed in the past year.

The XYZ's meet every 4th Tuesday of the month in the social hall of St. John's, except July and August. The hours from 10 to 12 are devoted to games, conversation and crafts. Lunch is at noon and at 12:30 they have devotions and Bible study. From 1 to 3 p.m., topics of interest to senior citizens are discussed. A speaker may inform the group of correct methods for filing applications to receive reimbursement of medical bills and drugs, or of the how and why of Social Security, or on money matters such as wills, deeds, joint bank accounts, lawyers' fees, federal and state inheritance taxes. Speakers are provided who can give the necessary information to ease the burden of a tight pension that will not stretch. Information is discussed on applying for tax reduction through lower property assessments, who is entitled to food stamps, meals on wheels, the FISH organization to help the needy and infirm, transportation and reading to patients.

Once a year a memorial service is held in church for those members who are no longer with them. This service is conducted by the XYZ Club through its own members. Twice a year they have a communion service for the aged and infirm who cannot climb steps. These services are held during Holy Week and a pre-Thanksgiving service.

They also act as hosts to senior groups from other churches who are entertained by a talented group under the direction of Ruth Karweick and Gertrude Heeder.

During the past years XYZ members availed themselves of opportunities to visit places they had dreamed and read about but never achieved: Bermuda, Alaska, the Caribbean, the maritime provinces of Canada, the Delta Queen on the Mississippi, Tulip Festival in Michigan, Camp Watson, Wellsboro Gorge in Pennsylvania, the New England autumn foliage, the Apple Blossom Festival in Winchester, Virginia, the Poconos, and the Catskills. For those who could not go, films and slides were brought back so they could glimpse and enjoy these trips visually.

Trips nearer to home were enjoyed by members who do not have cars, such as Lake Skaneateles, Newark rose gardens, Kodak tour, Brookwood, nuclear power plant, Wegman egg farm, Hamlin Beach Park, Livonia to Avon Railroad and a wonderful day each year at the Steins' summer home on Port Bay.

The XYZ has grown to 116 members with an average attendance of 70. Their group contributed to the 100th Anniversary by sponsoring the Confirmands Reunion.

In addition to memorials for departed members, the following recent gifts were made:

\$25.00 - to St. John's for use of its facilities

\$25.00 - to Senior Council of Inner Mission Society

\$25.00 - to underprivileged children of Lutheran Camp

\$25.00 - to Flood Relief Program

\$35.00 - to Pastor Rynerson, Church for the Deaf

The officers for 1973 are: President, Clarence Eggert; Vice-President, Howard Borst; Secretary, Martha Kraft; Treasurer, Carl Adamek; Program Chairman, Gertrude Heeder; Kitchen Chairman, Louise Steuerwald; Pianist, Sandra Janchuk; Violinist, Fred Piotter; Crafts, Margaret Simmons and Helen Eggert.



### **EPILOGUE**

The editing committee of this booklet hopes you have enjoyed reviewing the history of St. John's organizations. There undoubtedly have been many things left unsaid, but our goal was only to have a record of the organizations' contributions to the life of St. John's. The records of our former church historian, Mr. Charles W. Kosbab, were an invaluable source of information. The cooperation of those who supplied information was really appreciated, and their names are listed with gratitude:

Marvin Berner Joseph Bulavinetz Clarence Eggert Elsie Eggert Joan Hoffman Norman Kalenda Richard Kerbs Clara Kirchgessner Ethel Kraft Donald Kraft Martha Kraft Paul Muckstadt Clarence Neun Carol Schmitt Hattie Schutte Elsa Walters Viola Wehner Eleanor Wolff

Now that we have recorded our past and present status, we are eagerly looking to the future. With God's help, St. John's members will continue to achieve new goals. As was pointed out in Pastor Albert Horn's 100th Anniversary message:

### UR important in the CH -- CH

Editing Committee Lina Claus Wilma Klem Betty Larker Vera Sharp

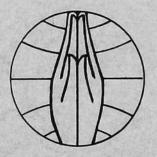
### ON THE THRESHOLD OF TIME\*

Lord Jesus, as we look into the future, let no fears assail us. Help us to be as confident that Thou wilt be with us in the future as we know Thou has been in the past.

We know that our Christianity is no insurance policy against trouble, but rather the guarantee that Thou wilt be with us in the trouble. That should give us strong hearts and confident faith. For so long as Thou art beside us, loving us, helping us, what have we to fear?

Hear us as we pray, standing on the threshold of time. Thou alone canst equip us for the tasks and the duties that are ours, that we may do our very best. In Thy strong name we pray.

Amen



\*From THE PRAYERS OF PETER MARSHALL by Catherine Marshall

Dear Members,

At long last! The Anniversary Booklet! It has taken me over two years to research, write, edit, lay out and prepare for the printer. I am pleased with the results and hope it will be treasured by you and at the same time bring you closer to the spirit of our church and its needs.

In working on this booklet, one thing seems to stand out above all else---the hundreds upon hundreds of people that had a part in the history. Whether by giving, attending, praying, working each in his own way has carried St. John's to this year of 1973. All had a part.

I am sure some will find errors. I am sure some will think people not mentioned should have been. Some will likewise, think some people mentioned should not have been! Some will find errors in spelling. Some will find grammatical errors. But I am sure the vast majority will sit back and enjoy the booklet and its pictures.

The errors are all mine, not because they were intentional but because they were mistakes! So be it!

It has given me great satisfaction delving into the past, present and looking into the misty future. The building of verbal bridges to span time, the reflection of the present and the wetting of appetites for the future have been the main thrust of the booklet.

The envelope? Simple for your use should you wish to contribute money to help defray the cost of the booklet. Please mark envelope with 100th Anniversary Booklet, Your Name, and envelope Number. The cost has been very low. We have saved thousands of dollars by doing the lay out, the proofing and other jobs normally done by the publishing firm. At the same time a kind Christian gentleman named, Malcom Burt, Owner of Burts Printing Service, inc., Dalton N.Y. has provided us paper, Stock and labor at cost. Remember his kindness in your prayers.

One copy of the booklet is provided per family. Should you desire another copy it can be obtained from the church office for \$2.50. This is the feeling of the Church Council.

I certainly must thank my wife, Margaret for her many hours in proofing the manuscript and making suggestions relative to its content and context.

So here is another gift of our 100 years together as St. John's Lutheran Church. Thanks be to God

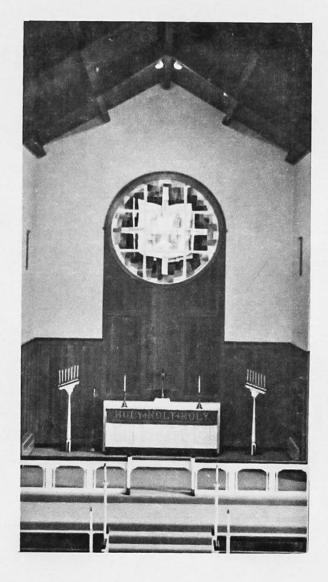
Ronald G. Barres 100 Anniversary Committee Cha nan

May 13, 1973

### REDEDICATION

November 30, 1969

# ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH LCA



800 Ridge Road East

Rochester, New York

Founded 1873

Rev. George F. Haag Pastor

Rev. Albert Horn Church Vistor Mr. Robert Wolff Student Assistant

Mrs. Nicholas Janchuk Organist

### A WORSHIP SERVICE FOR REDEDICATION

Organ Prelude

"Soli Deo Gloria"

Wilson

\*Processional Hymn

"God Himself Is Present"

**SBH 164** 

- God himself is present, Let us now adore him, And with awe appear before him! God is in his temple, All within keep silence, Prostrate lie with deepest reverence. Him alone God we own, Him, our God and Saviour; Praise his Name forever!
- 2. God himself is present,

Hear the harps resounding;

See the crowds the throne surrounding!

'Holy, Holy, Holy,'

Hear the hymn ascending,

Angels, saints, their voices blending!

Bow thine ear

To us here:

Hear, O Christ, the praises

That thy Church now raises.

 O thou Fount of blessing Purify my spirit, Trusting only in thy merit; Like the holy angels Who behold thy glory, May I ceaselessly adore thee.

Let thy will

Ever still
Rule thy Church terrestrial,
As the hosts celestial. Amen.

Our Help is in the Name of the Lord.

R. Who made heaven and earth.

Peace be to this house.

R. And to all that enter therein.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Anthem

"Our God Is Great"

Senior Choir

Wilson

\*The Act of Blessing

The Rev. Albert Horn, St. John's Church Visitor

Pastor:

Look graciously, we beseech thee, Almighty God, upon this House which we have adorned anew to the glory of thy holy Name; and be pleased to bless and hallow it. Amen.

Blest and dedicate be this House, its Altar, and its new adornment, to the glory and honor of Almighty God, and to the service of his holy Church: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Hallowed also be these memorials, loving gifts to the honor of God, to the adornment of his sanctuary, and to the memory of his faithful children. The memory of the just is blessed.

The Blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, descend and rest upon this holy House, and abide with us all, now and forevermore. Amen.

\*Congregation Stands

<sup>\*</sup>In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen

Hymn "Come Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire"

SBH 117 Tune No. 415

 Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire And lighten with celestial fire; Thou the anointing Spirit art Who dost thy seven-fold gifts impart. Thy blessed unction from above Is comfort, life, and fire of love. Enable with perpetual light The dullness of our blinded sight. Amen.

\*The Introit for the Day

The Rev. George F. Haag, Liturgist

\*The Gloria Patri

\*The Kyrie

\*The Gloria In Excelsis

\*The Collect for the First Sunday in Advent

Anthem

"Lonesome Valley"

Youth Choir

The Reading of the Lessons

Mr. Robert Wolff, St. John's Student Assistant

Old Testament Lesson

1 Kings 8: 25-30

The Epistle 1 Corinthians 3: 10-17

R. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Anthem

"Build Thee More Stately Mansions" Senior Choir Young

\*The Gospel

Luke 3: 1-6

\*The Nicene Creed

Greetings

The Sermon Hymn

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

**SBH 150** 

- A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing;
   Our helper he amid the flood Of mortal ills prevailing:
   For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are great, And, armed with cruel hate, On earth is not his equal.
- Did we in our own strength confide Our striving would be losing;
   Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choosing.
   Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he; Lord Saboth his
   Name, From age to age the same, And he must win the battle.
- 3. And though this world, with devils filled, Should threaten to undo us; We will not fear, for God hath will His truth to triumph through us:

  The prince of darkness grim,
  We tremble not for him;
  His rage we can endure,
  For lo! his doom is sure,
  One little word shall fell him.

4. That word above all earthly powers, No thanks to them, abideth; The Spirit and the gifts are ours Through him who with us sideth: Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also; The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still, His kingdom is forever. The Sermon

The Rev. John Kirsch, D.D.

Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Oswego, New York

The Offering

Solo

"Bless This House"

Michael Nyerges

\*The Offertory

\*The Closing Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

\*The Benediction

\*Recessional Hymn

"The Church's One Foundation"

SBH 149

- The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
   She is his new creation By water and the word:
   From heaven he came and sought her To be his holy bride,
   With his own Blood he bought her, And for her life he died.
- Elect from every nation, Yet one o'er all the earth,
  Her charter of salvation One Lord, one faith, one birth;
  One holy Name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
  And to one hope she presses, With every grace endued.
- 'Mid toil and tribulation, And tumult of her war, She waits the consummation Of peace for evermore; Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest, And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.
- 4. Yet she on earth hath union With God, the Three in One, And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won. O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we Like them, the meek and lowly, On high may dwell with thee. Amen.

Organ Postlude:

Psalm XVIII

Marcello

You are invited to a reception immediately following the service in the Social Hall.

Cover photo courtesy of Mr. Arthur Pohl.

On December 14th, a 5x7 colored church photo will be available for each church mailing address. Pick yours up in the Social Hall.

Program Notes on Last Page.

	THE CHURCH CO				COUNCIL COMMITTEES
Officers:	Arthur Pohl	President			
	Kenneth Kosbab	Vice-President		Archivest	Charles Kosbab
	Miss Wilma Klem	Secretary		Church Life	Mrs. Mildred Sheehan, Convenor
	Mrs. Helen Sample		1	-1	
	†Howard Borst †John Adamek	Envelope Secretary Receipts Secretary		Education	Kenneth Kosbab, Chairman Mrs. William Larker,
	†Non Council Mem	ber	ď.		Church School Director Mrs. Donald Haag,
	Carl Anderson	Marvin Kerber			Vacation Church School Director
	William Beuthling				
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	Mrs. Joyce Haag	Donald Schmitt			Adult Training
	Gordon Johnson	Edward Wenke		Evangelism	Roy Sharp, Chairman
Our special		ving Wolff ittees for helping make this day poss	ible:		Kenneth Kosbab, Co-Chairman
op	THE DEVELOPMENT C			Finance	Gordon Johnson, Chairman
					Irving Wolff, Co-Chairman
	Robert Peters	Chairman			
	Frank Haimerl	Assistant		Property	Otto Failner, Chairman
	Carl Birr	William Schaaf			Fred Maurer, Co-Chairman
	Otto Failner	William G. Schlageter			Albert Kosbab, Co-Chairman
	Charles Klem	Edward Schlegel			
	William Merkel	Roy Sharp		Stewardship	Donald Schmitt, Chairman
THE MUSIC & WORSHIP COMMITTEE					Miss Wilma Klem, Co-Chairman
	Edward Burbott	Chairman			ORGANIZATIONS
	Frank Haimerl	Co-Chairman			
	Carl Anderson	James Meyer			Presidents
	Mrs. Frank Haimerl	Mr. & Mrs. Donald Munson		Altar Guild	Mrs. William J. Schlageter
	Mrs. Nicholas Janchuk	Mrs. William J. Schlageter		Bowling League	Richard Hoffman
	Miss Ruth Karweick	Miss Viola Wehner		Brotherhood	Edward Burbott
	Alex Kirstein	Edward Wenke		Boy Scouts	Marvin Berner, Scoutmaster
	Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Lucey	Miss Clara Zilinski		Basketball	James Davis
	•			Dorcas	Mrs. William Beuthling
1 1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	t t t t t t t t t t t t .	†	Fellowship	Norman Kalenda
				Intermediate Lea	
	REPRESENTATIV	ES TO:		cimediate Dea	Mrs. Donald Schmitt, Advisor
	Keuka Camp	Richard Hoffman	•	Senior League	
		William J. Schlageter		Schlor League	Nancy Saucke
	St. John's Home	Mr. & Mrs. Fred Arnold			Mrs. George Haag, Advisor
	Rochester Area Council			Lutheran Church	Women Mrs. Lawrence Sass
	of Churches	Mrs. Mildred Sheehan		LCW Faith Circl	le Mrs. Nelson Gibbs
				LCW Deborah C	지경 그림 그는 그 그 그리고 그리고 그리고 그리고 그리고 그리고 그리고 그리고 그리고
	Lutheran Inner Mission	Paul Muckstadt			
	THE TANK	George Schneider		LCW Noomi Circ	
	Rochester District & Uppe	r New York Synod Arthur Poh Kenneth Ko		LCW Naomi Cir	cle Mrs. Leo Distler
			SUAU	Young Adults	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wolf
	Our Delegate to Synod	Ronald Barres		•	

### CONTRIBUTORS

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Mr. Lon Kosbab

Mrs. Martha Kraft

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Kritch

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Miss Katherine Rodway

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Continued on next page

### CONTRIBUTORS Continued

### CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ORGANIZATIONS

\*Altar Guild

\*Dorcas Society

\*St. John's Brotherhood

\*Fellowship Club

\*Kitchen Group

\*Contributed \$500.00 or more

The Stained Glass Window was given in Memory of Mr. Frank McAvinney by his Wife, Frieda.

And to all others who have so generously contributed, our sincere thanks.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many members of St. John's have participated in various phases of the renovation of the Sanctuary. We acknowledge the work of the many who make this day possible....their time, their gifts of talent, their personal willingness to serve. May God bless each and every one. We also acknowledge the following.

Walzer, Miller & Genga

Pike Stained Glass Studio Anthony Link Sons, Inc.

Ray A. Goering, Inc. Hickson Electric Co.

Roth Inc. Suskind Inc.

Pierrepont Co. Bryant G. Parsons Architect

**Chancel Window** 

General Contractor

Audio System Electrical Work

Ventilating System

Shades Painting

Organ

Service Notes:

Ushers

Edward Burbott

Terry Arnold

Fred Maurer Elmer Pohl

William J. Schlageter

Irving Wolff Frank Haimerl

Otto Failner

Acolyte Crucifer

Robert Hewitt Robert Schlageter

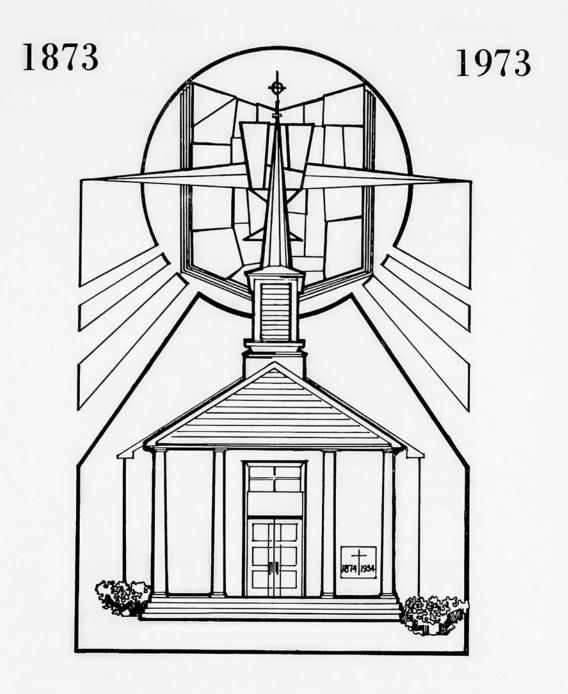
Instrumentalists

Donald Simons Mark Schaaf

Reception Hosts

Senior Luther League

The Altar Flowers today are in Loving Memory of Father, Mr. Gustave Dreier by His Daughters.



# ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

800 East Ridge Road, Rochester, New York

The Rev. George F. Haag, Pastor The Rev. Albert Horn, Church Visitor Mrs. Sandra Janchuk, Organist

### PRE SERVICE MEDITATION

What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him?

Who shall bring any charges against God's elect? It is God who justifies; who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril or sword? As it is written,

"For thy sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered".

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nore things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus Our Lord.

Romans 8; 31-39

### 100th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

November 25, 1973

### THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

The Service 9:30 A.M.

### ORGAN PRELUDE

By The Sea of Galilee Peace That Passeth Understanding Largo Bach Mendelssohn Hayden

### THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 151

Built on a rock the church doth stand, Even when steeples are falling; Crumbled have spires in every land, Bells still are chiming and calling; Calling the souls of men distressed, Longing for life everlasting.

Not in our temples made with hands
God the almighty is dwelling;
High in the heavens his temple stands,
All earthly temples excelling;
Yet he who dwells in heaven above
Deigns to abide with us in love,
Making our bodies his temple.

We are God's house of living stones,
Built for his own habitation;
He fills our hearts, his humble thrones,
Granting us life and salvation;
Were two or three to seek his face,
He in their midst would show his grace,
Blessings upon them bestowing.

Yet in this house an earthly frame,
Jesus the children is blessing;
Hither we come to praise His Name,
Faith in our Saviours confessing;
Jesus to us his Spirit sent,
Making with us his covenant,
Granting his children the covenant.

Through all the passing years, O Lord,
Grant that when church bells are ringing,
Many may come to hear God's word
Where he this promise is bringing;
I know mine own, mine own know me,
Ye, not the world, my face shall see;
My peace I leave with you,
Amen

THE INVOCATION AND CONFESSION -- Page 1

THE INTROIT--Page 114

THE KYRIE--Page 2

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS--Page 3

THE COLLECT--Page 114

SOLO--Mr. Edward Wenke
Far O'er The Stars There Is Rest

ABT

Read by Mr. Clarence Eggert

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON-Deuteronomy 33: Verses 1-3

THE EPISTLE- Revelation 7: 2-17

THE GOSPEL- Matthew 5: 1-12 (Congregation will stand)

THE APOSTLES' CREED--Page 5

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HYMN No. 136

Come, thou almighty King, Help us thy name to sing Help us to praise Father all glorious O'er all victorious Come and reign over us Ancient of Days.

Come, thou Incarnate Word, Help us thy Name to sing Our prayers attend; Come and thy people bless, And give thy word success; And let thy righteousness To us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear In this glad hour; Thou who almighty art, Now rule in every heart, And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power.

To thee, great One in Three, Eternal praises be.
Hence evermore!
Thy sovereign majesty
May we in glory see,
And to eternity
Love and adore. Amen

THE SERMON MEMORIES The Rev. George F. Haag

THE OFFERING

CHAPEL CHOIR Wayfaring Stranger Negro Spiritual

The Chapel Choir is directed by Mrs. Joan Hoffman. The guitar accompaniment is by Nancy Gruver, Morris Gruver, Jr. and Amy Claus.

### THE OFFERTORY III

THE MEMORIAL PRAYER AND READING OF THE NAMES Rev. Albert Horn

(Congregation is Silent)

Oh Lord, Almighty and Everlasting God, we pray that you will look kindly upon us. Understand us, Oh Lord, as humble and trying. Grant to us what you wish. We give thanks for your eternal presence.

We are born in travail, we grow, we accept the world which you have given. We enjoy the fruits of our work and then, like all living things, we come to the end of our time and return to your Mercy.

Not a day passed, Lord, but we remember with thanks, the memories of loved ones now gone from us. How easy to recall looks, gestures, words, laughter, joy and tears.

Often we dwell more in the past than the present. Sustain us Lord in our memories. We are only human. At the same time Lord, we know that we can not live in the past. We face the present and future secure in our faith. Not our will but Your Will.

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ we give thanks.

* Lydia Virkus	December 27,	1972
* Walter Lentz	February 4,	1973
Norine C. Witzigman	February 23,	1973
William C. Chadwick	February 24,	1973
* Ernst Halbmeyer	February 26,	1973
Louis Weis	March 3,	1973
James C. Casperson	March 18,	1973
Harold Bohm	March 26,	1973
* Evelyn S. Larker	March 27,	1973
Ethel Lockhart	April 19,	1973
Anna Joram	April 23,	1973
Joseph Collins	June 5,	1973
* Bertha Krause	June 13,	1973

Jack C. Kohler

September 7, 1973

\* Edward Heidt

September 20, 1973

\* Emelia L. Sagers

October 9, 1973

Member of our congregation.
 (May Christ grant all His Peace.)

SOLO Mr. James Meyer Deep River Negro Spiritual

THE MEMORIAL LITANY AND CANDLE LIGHTING

Pastor Haag-100 years ago this church was formed.

R-Thanks be to Christ.

Rev. Haag-100 years ago men, women and children gathered in the name of Jesus Christ to found this church.

R-We give thanks to Christ for these people.

May we learn from their faith.

Rev. Haag-They overcame hardship. Despite war, famine, sickness, poverty, discouragement they built this living congregation.

R-We give thanks to Christ for these people.

May we learn from their faith.

Rev. Haag-And now, In the Name of the Father may we pause and each in his heart pray that we will be a worthy example for those yet to come.

R-Help me Oh Christ to be a worthy example.

FIRST CANDLE IS LIT

Rev. Haag-Who among us can recite the names of those who gave of themselves for this church?

R-No one Lord. There were so many.

Rev. Haag-As they came to the end of their labors who was with them? Who was their rock and their shield?

R-Christ Jesus. In their time of tribulation, in the hour of their death it was Christ Jesus.

Rev. Haag-And now, In the Name of the Son may we pause and reflect upon the faith of the people that have brought our church to this time.

R-Help me Oh Christ to be a worthy example.

### SECOND CANDLE IS LIT

Rev. Haag-We have been blessed with good and worthy leaders over the years.

R-May we continue to be so blessed.

Rev. Haag-The present is but a reflection of the past. We stand here this day because of what took place day after day back to 1873.

R-Thanks be to God for His Blessings upon our church.

Rev. Haag-We know that the future depends upon us.

Those gone, have done their work. They have made their mark. They have rested from their labors. What of us Oh Lord? What of us?

R-Use me. I stand ready to continue the work of those now gone.

Rev. Haag-And now, In the Name of the Holy Ghost, may we pause and reflect upon our own talents, and our own plans to carry on the work of this church.

> R-Thanks be to God for the memory of those who rest. May my life be a living memorial. I will be worthy Lord.

### THIRD CANDLE IS LIT

SOLO Mrs. George Logemann

For All the Saints Who From Their Labors Rest R. V. Williams

### THE PRESENTATION OF THE ETERNAL LIGHT

This is a gift from the Fellowship Club. The presentation will be made by Dr. Norman Kalenda, accepted by Arthur Pohl, for the congregation.

The Eternal Light has a significance that goes back thousands of years and starts in Jewish History. In Hebrew, the Eternal Light is called Ner Tamid. It is symbolic of the "closeness of God". In the early christian church it was used to show Christ, as the light of the world. It was also symbolic of the Eucharist. In the post-millde ages it has come to represent the eternal light which is that of Jesus Christ. The Santuary shall never be closed in darkness. Even as we sleep and go about our daily lives the light shall always shine. The Old Testament is filled with references to light. In the New Testament light has special meaning when we think of Christ as "the light of the world".

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE BENEDICTION

THE RECESSIONAL HYNM No. 541

Rise up, O men of God
Have done with lesser things;
Give heart and soul and mind and strength
To serve the King of Kings.

Rise up, O men of God!

His kingdom tarries long;

Bring in the day of brotherhood,

And end the night of wrong.

Rise up, O men of God! The Church for you doth wait, Her strength unequal to her task; Rise up and make her great!

Lift high the Cross of Christ! Tread where his feet have trod; As brothers of the son of Man, Rise up O men of God! Amen

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Renediction

Schubert

\*\*\* Ushers will seat late arrivals.

The Altar Flowers are presented today to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of MR. JAMES O'FLYNN and MRS. MARION DREIER by Mrs. Elizabeth Dreier and in Loving Memory of MOTHER, MRS. ADELINE GUSTKE by her daughter, Mrs. Bertha Castagna.

Accolyte - Alexander Nyerges

John Sammon

Candle Lighters Raymund Rauchfuss

John Nyerges

Ushers for the Service are;

Carl Adamek

Terry Arnold

William Beinke

Fred Birr, Sr.

Morris Gruver

James Hill

Sandor Nyerges

As we near the end of this year we can take satisfaction in knowing that all organizations have contributed to the success of this 100 years of celebration. Each has made a contribution in time, talent and relevancy. This Special Memorial Service is the offering of the 100th Anniversary Committee. The Committee hopes you will find it forcefull as you look to the past, the present (and most important of all) towards the future. Each committee member has given their very best towards this goal.

Mr. Edward Burbott and Mr. Frank Haimerl, chairmen of the Worship and Music Committee have co-ordinated this service.

Mrs. Sandra Janchuk had charge of the music for this program. She has worked with the Chapel Choir and the soloists. We thank Mr. James Meyers and Mr. Edward Weinke for their contribution. They are members of our congregation. We also thank Mrs. George Logemann for her contribution. She is the Choir Director of Christ the King R. C. Church.

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of word and not a doer, he is like a man who observes his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But he who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty and perseveres, being no hearer that forgets but a doer that acts, he shall be blessed in his doing."

James 1; 22-25

### MEMORIALS

### November 1972 to November 1973

A custom which has gained favor and proved beneficial, is the memorial contribution by family and friends to the church of their loved one. Many of the members of St. John's have requested that this be done for them also. When the occasion arises, such gifts may be made through cooperation of the Funeral Director, or our Church Office. Acknowledgement to donors is made by our Church Office. For Memorial Sunday a printed annual listing will be distributed listing those memorials received as of November 1, each year. The congregation of St. John's gratefully receives these testimonials of love and affection.

The Asmuth Family by Miss Mayme C. Asmuth

Phillip Benoit by Edward H. Dreier

William Chadwick by John P. Meagher, Edward H. Dreier, Cafeteria Staff of James Madison High School, Mr. & Mrs. Stephan Shurgot, The Faculty & Staff of James Madison High School, Alma & Henry Wittmann, Mr. & Mrs. Leon Nickarson, Mr. & Mrs. Clair Brickler, Mrs. Edna Brennan & Mrs. Agnes Le-Schander, Anne Gledhill, Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Kenney, Mr. & Mrs. John Garlowich, Mr. & Mrs. L. Garry, Elizabeth Gawer, Devota A. Kiel, Mr. & Mrs. John R. Morgan, Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Parnell & Miss Josephine Borrelli, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Costa.

Lillian Claus by Mr. & Mrs. Don. Spencer, Leslie & Helga Lucy, Miss Mildred Mitchel.

Wilhelm Fietze by Adolf & Martha Kubica, The Leslie Lucy Family.

Ernst Halbmeyer by Mr. & Mrs. C. Adamek, Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Dorfner, Mrs. Rhena Mueller, Mr. & Mrs. George Mueller, Joachim Mueller & Gloria, C. Fehlner, Mr. & Mrs. J. Schick, Mrs. Marie Ennsle, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Zion, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Dugan, Mr. & Mrs. Ed. Simanoroski, Joseph Caprarella, Mrs. Leo Mueller & Mr. & Mrs. J. Spielman, Mrs. Ludwig Herzog, George & Erna Thal, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Haimerl, Mr. & Mrs. J. Braden, Mr. & Mrs. Warren Braden, Mr. & Mrs. C. Johnston, Mr. & Mrs. Emil Smuk, Mr. Xavier Mayer, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Abert, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Vahl, Mrs. Mina Gefeke, Mr. & Mrs. S. Heilmann, Miss Laura Freundschuch, Mr. & Mrs. M. Massotti, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Beier, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Wehs, Mr. Fred Wehs, X. Y. Z. Club, Gleason Works, Blder Statesmen's Club, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Brunner & Fam., Mr. & Mrs. John May, Franz Geiss, Mrs. Alfred Karpf, Mr. & Mrs. Adam Hauer, Mr. & Mrs. H. Stadtmueller, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Kehrer, Henry Pemsel, Gleason Works Employees', Mutual Benefit Association, John A. Karph, Mr. & Mrs. P. Richers.

Edward G. Heidt by Mrs. Fred Pohl & Mr. Fred Maurer.

Carl Horn by Mrs. Sybilla Yockel.

George Karweick by Miss Elsie Eggert.

Rudolph Kessler by Karoline Kessler, Mr. & Mrs. N. Janchuk, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Heeder.

Kurt Koch by Mr. & Mrs. William Bess, Mr. & Mrs. Barl Newman, Mr. & Mrs. August Siegl, Mrs. Anna Moeller.

Bertha Krause by Miss Marion Krause & George A. Krause, Mrs. Emelia Sagers, Miss Florence L. Klick & Mrs. George C. Schelter, Mr. & Mrs. V. Lenahan & Mrs. Mildred Edelman, Miss Eva Brown, Mrs. Ette G. Allen, Ruth & Howard Close, Mr. & Mrs. P. Sheehan, Mr. & Mrs. Geo. Kolher & Mrs. Caroline Stam, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Krause, Caroline Farnsworth, The Shults Family, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Gawer & Fam., Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bahr, Johanna Servatius & Elmer Meltzahn, Raymond & Grace DeRuyscher, Hattie Dries, Mr. & Mrs. Albert Witt, Mr. & Mrs. George Witt, Mr. & Mrs. O. Lichtenfels, Miss Viola Krause.

George Kubitz by Mr. William Nichols, Jr.

Evelyn S. Larker by Mrs. Katherine Swarthout & Miss Edna Birkenstock, Mrs. Verna Sweet & Family, Mrs. Thelma Gowing & Mrs. Doreen Thompson, Miss Marilyn Heeder, Mr. & Mrs. L. Miller, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Schmitt, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Schmitt, Mr. & Mrs. John Selg, Mr. & Mrs. G. Swarthout, Miss Wilma Klem & Mrs. Martha Coleman, Mrs. Marie Metzdorf & Fam., Mr. & Mrs. Edward Roller, Mr. & Mrs. L. P. Romano, Mrs. Irene Turner & Daughter Sharon, Karoline Kessler, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. A. Wisotzke, Mr. & Mrs. Earl Hiler & Mrs. Helen Hiler, Mr. & Mrs. J. Bulavinetz, Mrs. Martha Strickland & Mr. & Mrs. Harold Sachs, Mrs. Alma Richardson & Miss Edna Richardson, Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Funk, Mr. & Mrs. F. Meaker, Mr. & Mrs. Roy M. Sharp, Mr. & Mrs. R. Heeder & Fam., Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Heeder & Fam., Mr. & Mrs. N. Janchuk & Fam., Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Heeder, Mr. R. Herms, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Hoysic, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Teasdale, Mrs. F. Leimberger, Mrs. Pauline Saeger, Frances Leimberger, Miss Elsie Eggert, Mary Glauser & Loretta Hall & Clara Schmidt, Mr. & Mrs. F. Gillette, Mr. & Mrs. A. Taillie & Mrs. Elizabeth Dreier, Mrs. Mary Koval & Mrs. Horpyna Janchuk, Jack, Lina, Amy & Marjorie Claus, Roger, Karen, & Joanne Larker, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Larker, Selma Walter, Elsa Walter & Clara & Jacob Kirchgessner, Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Blacken, Mr. & Mrs. Irving Musius, Mrs. Martha Albrecht, Mr. & Mrs. George Friga, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Peper, Herman Havens, Mr. & Mrs. W. G. Yengst, Mrs. Lucile Gillette, Grant & Lynn, Mr. & Mrs. P. Muckstadt, Miss Ruby A. Woolston, Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Lucy, Mr. & Mrs. D. Spencer.

Walter Lentz by Mrs. Irene Arnold, Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Pallone, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Taillie, Mr. Edward H. Dreier, Mrs. Joseph Fitzgerald, Mr. & Mrs. Terry Arnold, Mr. & Mrs. Don Arnold & Fam.

Loved Ones by Mr. & Mrs. Paul G. Braun.

Katherine Marucca by Mrs. Clara Pirr.

John C. McKague by John T. McKague & Helen C. Lentz.

Marie Muckstadt by Mr. & Mrs. Irving Wolff, John Adamek, Miss Elsie Eggert.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Neubieser by Mr. & Mrs. William Semmler.

Justine Nyerges by Mr. & Mrs. Sandor Nyerges.

William Pagel by John Pagel & Fam.

Emelia Sagers by Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Larker, Dorcas Society, Mrs. Louise Steuerwald & Mrs. Clara Pirr, Naomi Circle, Mrs. Flora Barten & Mr. & Mrs. Leo Distler, Mrs. Gertrude Heeder & Mrs. Sandra Janchuk, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Gresens, Mrs. Rose Relyea, Mr. & Mrs. Earl Newman, Mrs. Fred Pohl, Mr. Fred Maurer, Mr. & Mrs. Ed. Bescher, Lutheran Church Women, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Burbott, Mrs. Elizabeth Dreier & Mr. Edward H. Dreier, Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Dresser, Loraine Kryger, Ruth M. Karweick, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Monell, Eileen & Alan Vieira, Miss Marguerite B. Keller, James A. Kryger & Fam., Mr. & Mrs. Nelson F. Gibbs, Mrs. Minnie Beuthling, Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Eggert, St. John's Church Council, Miss Elizabeth Eggert, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Muckstadt, Mrs. Rose Offerman, Mr. & Mrs. Paul G. Braun, Sally Witkowski. Mrs. Edna Pathe.

Mr. Alvin C. Smith by Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Janchuk.

Albert J. Schultz by Miss Wilma Klem, Mrs. Martha Coleman, Miss Elsie Eggert.

Edward S. Ulrich by Mrs. Elsie Delaney, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Delaney & Fam.,

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Davis, IEM Corporation, Endicott, New York.

Ida Vahle by James Mannhardt & Fam., Harold & Flora Zimmer, Mr. & Mrs. D. Mesh, Mrs. M. Basalaj & Luba, Mrs. V. Hickey, Miss P. Maniske, Mr. & Mrs. W. Leverenz, Mr. & Mrs. H. J. King & Daughter, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Leverenz, Mr. Peter Bidack, Mrs. Elsie Geist, Mr. Frank Sulick, Mr. & Mrs. John McCabe, Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Schmitt & Daughter, Mr. & Mrs. John Mueller & Fam., Mr. & Mrs. M. Barrelli, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Taillie, Hartman Fam., Mrs. Anna O'Flynn, Mr. Paul Knitter, Mr. & Mrs. T. Knights, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Mesh, Mr. & Mrs. Emil Schneiter. Mrs & Mrs. R. Yancer, Mr. & Mrs. R. Walters & Fam., Harold E. Eisele, Mrs. Florence Scamacca, Mr. & Mrs. Elizabeth Dreier & Edward H. Dreier, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Hitzke, Mr. & Mrs. Wm.

Sage, Mr. Robert W. Hitzke, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Hitzke, Mr. August Hitzke, Miss Ellen Tomer, Pearl Hitzke & Walter Hitzke.

Lydia Virkus by Elsie Eggert, Viola Krause, Mrs. E. Feld & Fam., Mr. & Mrs. Alex Kirstein, Mr. & Mrs. Philip Ludwig, Mrs. Eleanor Lehman & Sons, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Cloffey, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Blum, The Neighbors from Herold St., Mrs. Hattie Dries.

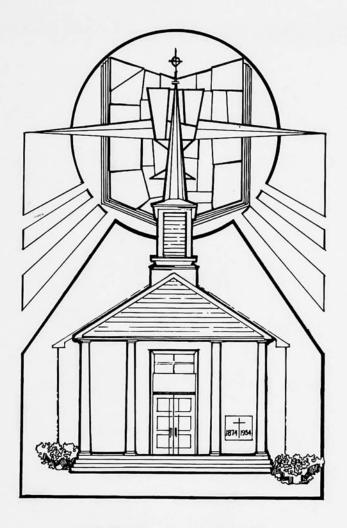
Charles Zollweg by St. John's Kitchen Group, Mr. & Mrs. H. DeLaney, Mr. & Mrs. C. R. Davis, Elsie DeLaney.

Herbert A. Zollweg by Elsie DeLaney, Ruth Davis.

In addition to the listed contributions to the Memorial Fund, the following Bequests were made.

Two card tables by the XYZ Club, Portable Lectern from the Dorcas Society, Bequest from the Estate of Bertha Krause, Bequest from the Estate of Otto Schuff, Checkwriter, from Mr. Edward Dreier, Sanctuary Lamp from the Fellowship Club, Power Sweep Vacuum Cleaner from the Fellowship Club, Drapes for Social Hall from the Kitchen Group, Paint for Social Hall from the Dorcas Society, Monetary Gift In Memory of Lydia Virkus by Hattie Dries, Adding Machine from the Dorcas Society, Bequest from the Estate of Emelia Sagers Several Memorial Hymnals have been placed in the church this year. These have been acknowledged by letter.

# The Hundredth Anniversary Banquet



1873 - 1973

# St. John's Lutheran Church

800 East Ridge Road Rochester, New York

# The One Hundredth Anniversary Dinner

Valle's Steak House East Ridge Road

May 5th, 1973 at Six Thirty O'clock

# MENU

Fresh Fruit Cup

Roast Sirloin of Beef au naturale

Buttered Green Beans

Tossed Green Salad

Baked Potato

Vienna Rolls

Butter

Sherbert with Creme de Menthe

Coffee

Tea

Milk

# THE PROGRAM

Dr. Raymond Doell, Toastmaster

Invocation . . . . . The Rev. Paul Young

The 100 Year Toast. . William G. Schlageter
Vice President Church Council

Group Singing. . . . Ronald Wittmann, Leader

Greetings

Concord Quartet

Messages

Acknowledgements

Speaker . . . . . Dr. Ralph Loew, Pastor Holy Trinity Church Buffalo, New York

Benediction . . . . . The Rev. Albert Horn

# **WE THANK**

WE HONOR

1

Mrs. Mildred Sheehan, General Banquet Chairwoman for her many hours spent in planning and promoting this happening.

Mrs. Gertrude Heeder for the lovely table decorations and favors.

Mrs. Grace Bescher and Miss Wilma Klem for ticket handling.

Robert Kiesow for his pen and ink sketch on the front of the program.

Wilber Stein for playing the piano.

Mrs. Ann Troike for hours spent typing letters.

Rev. David Hoecker, Kenneth Kosbab, Scott Kretchmer and Ken Scott all of Concord Lutheran Church for their songs.

William LeCook of Lutheran Mutual Insurance Co. for folders.

Harold Quell for his advice and his posters.

Miss Clara Zilinski, Chairwoman of Hostesses.

Joan McNight and Jean Berner office staff.

Malcolm Burt of Burts Printing Service, Inc., Dalton, New York for the program.

The Valle Steak House staff for their hard work.

Dr. Ralph Loew for his precious time and talents. God has touched this man with love, conviction and hope.

Dr. Raymond Doell for being Toastmaster. Many thanks Ray, actually, you are an institution.

Last, but most important, YOU. Your presence makes the church, the banquet and the next 100 years possible.

We honor as guests of this 100th Anniversary Banquet our members who are at least eighty years old during this anniversary year of 1973. Their lives have been built on the solid foundation of hope and love of Christ and church.

Mrs. Marie Berghouse

Mrs. Mamie Gawer

Mrs. Louise Blensinger

Mr. Fred Geigle

Mr. Robert Corke

Mrs. Clara Gresens

Mr. August Damaschke

Mr. Herman Havens

Mrs. Elsie Delaney

Miss Martha Hennrich

Mrs. Elizabeth Dreier

Mrs. Alma Horn

Miss Hattie Dreier

Mr. Charles Keller

Mrs. Caroline Farnsworth

Mr. Charles Kerber

Mr. William Gawer

Mrs. Karoline Kessler

### WE HONOR

### continued

Mrs.	Bertha	Klem	Miss	Minnie	Renckert
Mr.	Charles	Klem	Mrs.	Bertha	Schidakowitch

Mrs.	Bertha	Krause	Mr.	George	Schneider

		** 1 .		**	0-1
Mr.	Adolf	Kubica	Mrs.	Hattie	Schutte

"And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

ACTS 20:32-35

As we gather at this banquet to help celebrate our 100 years as a christian congregation, let us first give thanks to Him Who has blessed us during all of this time.

True, we have been tested at various times during that century, but God has provided the dedicated leadership at every crisis, and we have survived to continue in His Service.

Perhaps the phrase, "in His Service" is the key to our survival, and each of us should now renew his or her dedication to this ideal. Without such personal dedication, St. John's could quickly become just another brief note in local history (and deservedly so). With strong determined personal dedication to His Service, St. John's will celebrate her 200th Anniversary!

That we will so dedicate ourselves, and that our congregation will celebrate that 200th Anniversary, will be my prayer.

Arthur Pohl

Church Council President

# The Church's One Foundation

The Church's one foundation, is Jesus Christ, her Lord; She is His new creation, by water and the Word; From heaven He came and sought her, to be His holy Bride, With His own Blood He bought her, and for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth, Her charter of salvation, One Lord, one Faith one Birth; One holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy Food, And to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

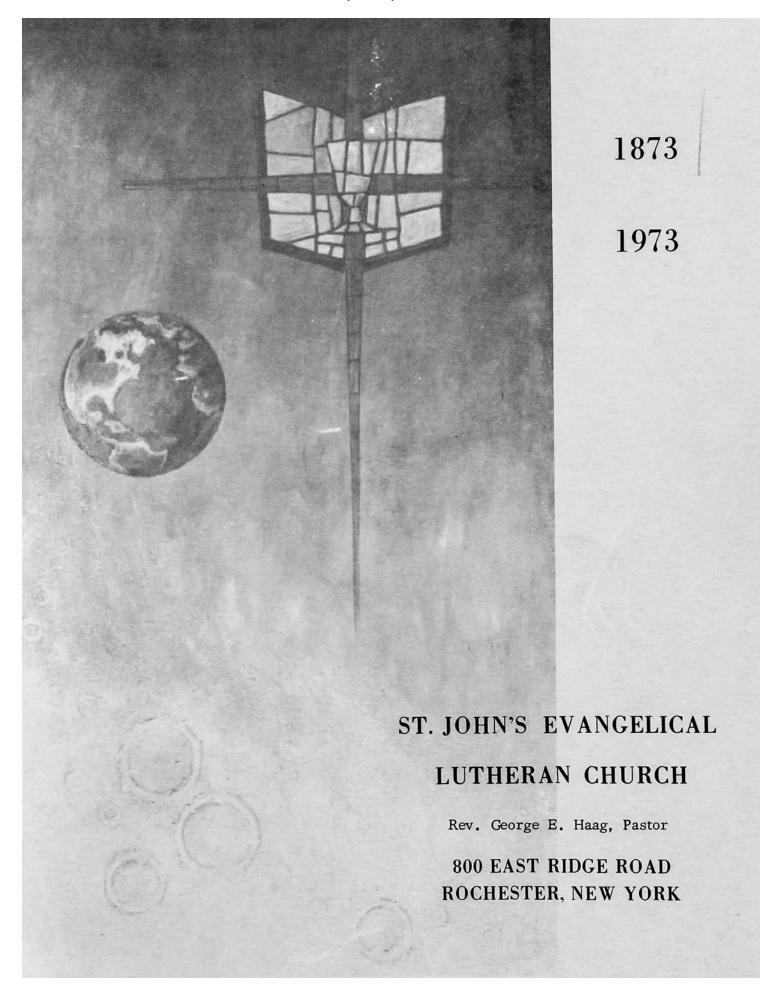
# Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In Whom His world rejoices;
Who, from our mother's arms,
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills,
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son and Him Who reigns
With Them in highest heaven:
The One Eternal God
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

Amen.



## A PRAYER FOR MY CHURCH

This house is my house, Oh Lord. It is more than a building of brick and wood. It is a living monument of love.

Bless this house which bears the Holy Name of St. John, the Apostle of Love. It is here I find the Peace which is beyond understanding.

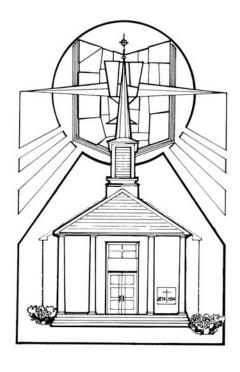
I am a link in the human chain that was started 100 years ago by determined people who built this church. Bless it, Oh Lord.

Each member has touched and helped strengthen this church. Each, in his own way, has forged the links. For this we give thanks.

Help me Lord, in my own way to be a firm stone so others can build on my faith. Let me be a worthy example of Your Teachings Lord.

Bless those who labored and now rest. Bless those now in the vineyard. Bless those not yet in the vineyard. I am awed Lord. Bless me.

## THE 100th ANNIVERSARY



1873 - 1973

## ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

800 EAST RIDGE ROAD ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

The old church, Joseph Avenue and Buchan Park, Venerable, gracious. Our home from 1873 to 1955, From 1955 to Thanksgiving Day 1971, the home of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church. Early that Thanksgiving Day it was severely damaged by a dynamite bomb that exploded in the boiler room. On January 13, 1971 it was crippled further by a fire that was set in the Altar area. During the week of March 5th, 1973 it was rendered totally useless by another arsonist. Why? No one knows, It stands with windows gone, roof opened, interior twisted and burnt. Now it stands as a monument to man's inhumanity to man. Soon it will come tumbling down under the wreckers hammer. The bricks and wood will be carted away, the cellar filled in and only the memory will remain. In time even that will be gone!



# THE 100th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Edward Burbott

Mrs. Helen Fry

Rev. George F. Haag

Miss Wilma Klem

Mr. Arthur Pohl

Mrs. Audrey Sass

Mrs. Mildred Sheehan

Mr. Ronald G. Barres, General Chairman

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Mrs. Helen Fry, General Co-ordinator

Miss Wilma Klem and Mr. Edward Burbott Church Picnics

Mrs. Mildred Sheehan, Church Banquet

Mr. Paul Muckstadt, Wagner Choir

Dr. Norman Kalenda and Mr. Wilbur Stein, Fellowship Club Events

Mr. Clarence Eggert, Confirmation Rally

Mr. Joseph Helly, Scout Skill Show

Mr. Donald Munson, Displays and Decorations

#### SUNDAY BULLETINS

Profiles edited by Mrs. Helen Fry

Profiles written by Ronald G. Barres

## ANNIVERSARY BOOK

General Editor, Mrs. Helen Fry

Words, photographs, Ronald G. Barres

Printing, Burts Printing Service, Inc., Dalton, N. Y.

## ARTIST

Mr. Robert Kiesow

#### TYPISTS

Mrs. Isabelle Carter

Mrs. Muriel Kosbab

Mrs. Hannah Rauchfuss

# THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

September 29, 1972

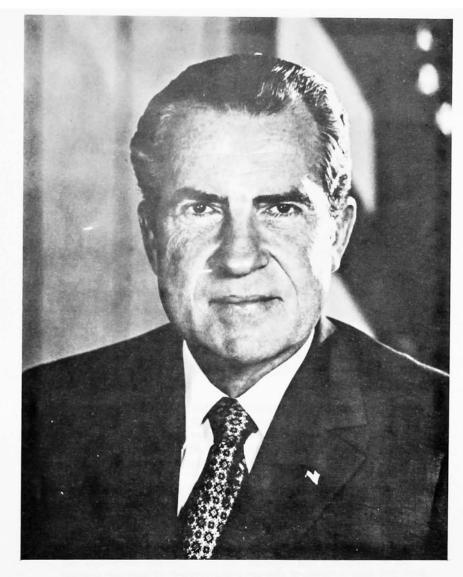
TO THE CONGREGATION OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Your one hundredth anniversary is a source of satisfaction not only to you but also to the nation whose moral fiber you have strengthened by your religious commitment.

It is my hope that the pride you derive from this significant milestone may give you all the confidence you will need to face an even more challenging future with the same high purpose.

By this pride in your past and by the spiritual values of your Faith, may you continue to advance the goals of the true human brotherhood we seek -- and may this nation and all mankind benefit from your work.

Rihad Nifon



President of the United States Richard M. Nixon

## DEDICATION



Patricia Eleanor Barres

DEDICATION - Those of us who have worked on this history have learned much of the world, the church and ourselves. Of greatest importance is a simple fact-we have come to the end of an era. We look not back, but forward to the next era.

We who are old look to those that are young. A staggering, simple fact.

With this thought in mind, we dedicate our efforts and place the future in the tiny hands of people like Patricia Eleanor Barres.

May they brush away the errors of the past.

May they cling with a strong grasp, to the hopes and prayers of the future.

May they strengthen the shaky foundations we have laid.

May they tie together the bonds of love, hope and charity.

May they have strength of character and strength of purpose.

May they look with compassion and hope on their legacy.

With the help of Almighty God, may they overcome!

One hundred years of preaching and living lives fashioned after Christ.

A golden thread that winds through hundreds of lives binding them in a bond of love for the Glory of Almighty God.

That is the simple story of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

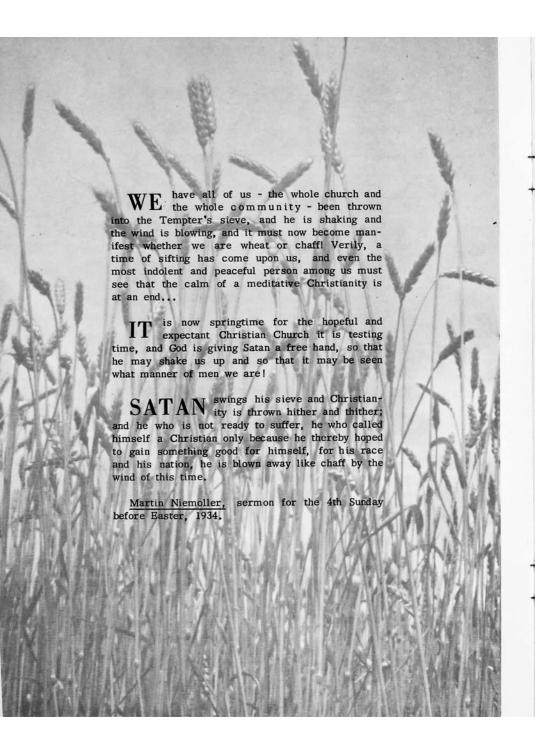
1873 to 1973 is a total of 876,000 hours which form 36,500 days. Imagine 100 Easter Sundays; 100 Christmas celebrations. Think of the number of people that have sung hymns of praise and thanksgiving. The number of Holy Communion Services. The weddings. The funerals. The meetings. The celebrations. How many times has the name Jesus Christ been uttered by hundreds upon hundreds of people?

Pause and think of the joys and laughter in the last 100 years. Think of the sorrow, the tears, the broken hearts, the empty dreams, the joy of baptism, the glory of marriage, the mystery of birth, the relief of death. How many weary people have been sustained by the hope and comfort expressed through the Word of God in the past decade?

We have built a bridge of human lives from 1873 to 1973. We are not a thing of stone, brick or mortar. We are living, breathing, a vibrant power. We are capable of good and also evil. As always, we are dependent upon the gifts from God. As always, our lives are in His Hands.

The history of the church is the history of its members, and the times in which they lived. It's also a history of leadership that ebbs and flows like the tide. In some seasons it reaches a high mark. In some seasons it reaches a low mark. It is dependent upon the strength and weakness of the individual member and the strength and weakness of the leaders.

Thanks be to God!

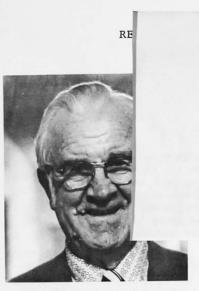


Our Lord has led his people at St. John's through many a walk of Calvary, and also feasts like Cana. As I reflect upon the expressions of faith which I have witnessed as Pastor of this church, I am amazed and lifted up. For today's future oriented society, the expression of worship and prayer here on the Ridge, are simply not understood. We are the children of God rejoicing that God has been added to the secular four dimensions of time and space. In our century, we have gone from reading our hymnals by candlelight on Joseph Avenue, to writing about God on the craters of the moon. And the trips to church and the flights in space have both been profound examples of the faith of our people.

The Rev. Paul Young, Dean of the Rochester District, speaking at our first worship event in January, reflected upon the statistics which never appear, the lost souls of all congregations. I have heard that St. John's has had over 15,000 baptized members in its lifetime. We would need housing greater than the Town of Irondequoit to house just the immediate families. Part of the spiritual heritage here has been the former member whose training and outlook reflect the many positive virtues of our faith and commitment. Somehow, the Christian church may in the next hundred years, be able to adjust to membership in churches at the same time. The vacation and retirement plans of present members show that we must be able to count sheep, without stealing sheep.

AT ANY RATE, I AM TO ENJOY THIS FESTIVE YEAR. This is, after all, a review of His work in our midst, for which we need to open our heart, and our life. We must thank Him for these days of goodwill. We need to be truly grateful for the 15,000 who have prayed in his Name. At the end of one century who can say that in the year 2073, that some of this year's members will not return for another festival of joy?

So I will make a confession, I believe that I am a better Christian because of the people of God, here at this House.



Reverend Albert Horn Church Visitor

OR

k in the life of our conrcefully reminded of the ; "Others have labored ered into their labors". I we are reminded of the "That unless the Lord ey have labored in vain 127:1.

belling of the word t it begins and ends with rs with which the name e center are U and R.

In the final analysis, St. John's strength or weakness depends upon you, for U R the church.

#### ROY SHARP - COUNCIL PRESIDENT 1972

As we celebrate this, the 100th Anniversary of our church, let us remember one thing.

Our Christian duty is to practice what our Lord has taught us.

Nothing More

Nothing Less

Nothing Else.



Roy Sharp, Church Council President, 1972

## CHURCH COUNCIL

\*Mr. John Adamek - Financial Receipts Sec. - 1972-1973

\*Mrs. Arlene Peters - Treasurer - 1972-1973

Mr. Terry Arnold

Mrs. Minnie Beuthling

Mr. Edward Burbott

Mrs. Lina Claus

Mr. Otto Failner

Mrs. Doris Gruver - Envelope Secretary - 1972

Dr. Norman Kalenda

Mr. Arthur Pohl - President - 1973

Mr. Morris Gruver Mrs. Audrey Sass

Mr. William G. Schlageter - V. Pres. - 1972 - 19

Mr. Donald Schmitt

Mr. Roy Sharp - President - 1972

Mrs. Mildred Sheehan

Mr. Fred Troicke

Miss Wilma Klem - Secretary - 1972

Mr. Roger Larker (In military service 1972)

Mr. Fred Maurer

Mrs Jane Nesius - Secretary - 1973

Mr. Sandor Nyerges

\*Non-council Member

## **ORGANIZATIONS**

ALTAR GUILD

Pres. Mrs. Elizabeth Schlageter Treas. Mrs. Freda McAvinney

CHAPEL CHOIR

Mrs. Joan Hoffman - Director

DORCAS SOCIETY

Pres. Mrs. Minnie Beuthling Vice-Pres. Mrs. Louise Steuerwald Sec. Mrs. Martha Kraft

Treas. Mrs. Gertrude Heeder

FELLOWSHIP CLUB

Chairman Norman Kalenda Sec. Miss Viola Wehner

Treas. Robert Wittmann

BOWLING LEAGUE

Pres. Larry Villard Pat Wojcieszyn Vice-Pres. Sec. Miss Viola Wehner

Treas. Edward Bescher

LUTHER LEAGUES

SENIOR

Sec.

Pres. Karen Kleiner John Nyerges Vice-Pres.

Karen Larker Treas. Peter Hewitt

INTERMEDIATE

Pres. Bill Haag Vice-Pres. Mark Schmitt Dawn Sweet Sec.

Treas. Patricia Hewitt LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

1972 1973 Audrey Sass Pres. Grace Bescher Vice-Pres. Grace Bescher Barbara Wilson Secretary Ellen Ferge Ellen Ferge

Geraldine Schultz

Geraldine Schultz

Treasurer FAITH CIRCLE

1972 1973 Helen Gibbs Chairman Helen Gibbs

Recorder Eleanor Wolff Emelia Sagers

DEBORAH CIRCLE

1972 1973 Chairman Joan Lawrence Vera Sharp

Jean Schlageter Recorder Mildred Wolff

NAOMI CIRCLE

Chairman Lillian Burbott Phyllis Distler Recorder

TROOP 237 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

1972

1973 Marvin Berner Scoutmaster Marvin Berner Nicholas Micket Marlowe Fredrickson Committee Chairman Ewald Koester Ewald Koester Int. Representive

XYZ CLUB (XTRA YEARS for ZEST)

Pres. Clarence Eggert Howard Borst Vice-Pres. Martha Kraft Secretary Treasurer

Carl Adamek

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## VOICES

Our individual lives are shaped and patterns of behavior are formed by what we see and hear. These are the impressions of life. Some of us listen to certain voices and totally accept what they say; others partially accept what they say; others totally reject what they say. Some of the voices have plunged the world into a holocaust of destruction. Others have made men think, through the written word. Many have had little impact upon the majority.

They lecture, they act, they plead, they insist. Yet, they all have a common goal-to capture the mind of their listener! The battles fought with guns, bombs and other tools of war are limited. Wars come and go. The battle of ideas is never ending. It is constant and is being fought throughout our world.

From the most primitive to the most complex culture, ideas conceived by man and cultivated by man have controlled the actions of man. A few gifted persons in each age realize that man is powerless left to his own destiny. He must walk with God to capture the fullness of life. Yet, most go about their lives as ants in a hill.

Ideas that have shaped the world never come from the mass of humanity--only from a small handful. The small handful then takes the ideas and if they have merit (whether for good or evil only time can tell) shape them, parcel them out to people in authority and soon the mass accepts them.

However, while the mass may accept an idea there are others in the minority that have a variety of counter ideas. There is nothing like 100% acceptance of any idea. There are only grades of acceptance from 0 to 100. This is what causes society at a given time, to go from a dark age to the golden age of reason. Think of the thousands upon thousands of people with all sorts of ideas, each saying his is the best and the most important. Like a gigantic Tower of Babel-except everyone knows what the other is saying!

Not many years ago before our modern day of communication, ideas were more difficult to be placed before the people. Now, its a split second before ideas, news reports, political speeches, mud slinging, lies, half truth and truth can be heard around the world. It takes thinking, study, reflection, prayer and meditation before modern man can accept a new idea-even then his next door neighboor may go through the same process and come up with something opposite!

It staggers the mind to know that over 80% of the world's knowledge has been accumulated in the past 15 years. At no time in man's history has knowledge and ideas been so prevalent and caused such change as in the last 100 years. It's less than 100 years that man believed insects came from dirt and filth. Louis Pasteur proved that spontaneous generation was a myth. Television was nothing 30 years ago. Radio came into being less than 100 years ago. Computers, walking on the moon, communism, bacteriology, social concern, nutrition, religious change all have taken place in the last 100 years. These all started as the dream of a man. The dream became reality.

Some will cry out that the change means nothing since we still have war and poverty. True! But the world has always seen war and poverty but never has the world seen such changes for the better in the last 100 years. Mankind has been listening, for the main part, to the right voices. Thanks be to God!

As part of our educational thrust, the back of each Sunday bulletin starting January 7, 1973 has a profile and quotations about an outstanding person that lived between 1873 and 1973. We had much fun selecting 51 people that have made a major impact on the world in the last 100 years. We have sifted, thrown away, started all over but in the end have selected our list. Certainly, the final selection can be fiercely debated! Should we have used people such as Helen Keller, Mrs. Indra Ghandi, Carrie Nation, Will Durant, Lloyd George? We did not! Why? Simply because others seemed more important.

Even in dealing with faith, morals and the substance of Jesus Christ we find division. Our people in the last 100 years have indeed been bombarded with ideas. Some they have rejected. Yet, all have made some impact upon the growth of our members and the growth of our church.

We have been asked, what one person made the greatest impact upon the world since 1873? A gigantic question! The answer is only a matter of opinion. Yet, we feel Albert Binstein should hold the title. Here was a gentle man. A man of the spirit who spent his entire life seeking the truth of God and putting it in mathematical terms--clear, crisp, meaningful. His concepts have changed the thinking of man about matter. He laid the foundation for the future. He was a good man. A man who marveled at the sound of a child's laughter, a man who could be moved by music, a man who wondered about the fragile beauty of a flower. A man who was deeply moved by the awesome power of Almighty God.

Back in 1970 when the Anniversary Committee first met, we wondered what theme to use for 100 years of preaching Christ. Each person presented his own idea. Finally, one member said, "All we do is talk, talk, talk!" From this remark we realized that this is what mankind does--we talk, talk and talk and then from the talk we take some action; hence we realized the theme should be "Voices". At the same time we pray this will stimulate you so you want to learn more about the people that have been discussed.

Dennis Gabor-physicist William F. Graham-spiritual leader Lyndon B. Johnson-statesman Karl Marx-social writer Max Born-physicist Frederick Nietzsche-philosopher Albert Camus-philosopher John Dewey-educator David Sarnoff-communications Guglielmo Marconi-communications Louis Pasteur-bacteriologist Adolph Hitler-statesman Angelo Roncalli-spiritual leader Adlai Stevenson-statesman Harry Truman-statesman H. G. Wells-writer Leo Tolstoy-writer

John F. Kennedy-statesman Robert Frost-poet Mao Tse-Tung-philosopher Albert Fleming-bacteriologist Thorsten Veblen-economist Sigmund Freud-psychologist Ralph Bunch-statesman Walter Whitman-poet George Gershwin-musician Wehner von Braun-space research John Enders-immunologist Alfred Nobel-scientist George B. Shaw-playwright Henry Ford-industrialist Wright Brothers-aeronautics Enrico Fermi-scientist Albert Einstein-mathematician

Theodore Roosevelt-statesman Charles Darwin-evolutionist Mahatma Gandhi-spiritual leader Robert Ingersoll-philosopher Franklin D. Roosevelt-statesman Jane Adams-social scientist Woodrow Wilson-statesman Eleanor Roosevelt-writer Thomas Edison-inventor Samuel Clemens-writer Bertrand Russell-philosopher Albert Schweitzer-humanitarian Winston Churchill-statesman Richard M. Nison-statesman Charles DeGaulle-statesman Golda Meir-statesman George Eastman-industrialist



You are standing in the middle aisle of the old chruch on Joseph Avenue and Buchan Park. It is a windy wet evening. You can hear the rain beating against the stained glass windows. You can hear the low moan of the wind as it searches out each nook and cranny of the building. The only light is from the street. The interior of the church is dimly lit so that the altar, lectern and pulpit stand out in base relief. You listen as the building groans and creaks. Let your mind drift back. Close your eyes, sink into a pew and think.

## 1873

The year is 1873. The nation is slowly recovering from a prolonged and bloody civil war. People still speak with horror over the wasted murder of Abraham Lincoln. It's a presidential year and after the speeches and political parades Ulysses S. Grant easily defeated Horace Greely. The economy is poor. There is a serious recession and thousands are unemployed. Over 5,000 business firms fail.

To compound the nations problems epidemics of small pox, yellow fever and cholera stricken and kill thousands. Yet, people in 1873 knew that good times would replace the bad times. They had a great deal of faith that God moved in the world.

Rochester was a busy place. The recession had hit but its effect in Rochester was small. The clothing industry was growing and soon it would be among the nations largest. Shoes were manufactured by 25 different concerns. Bausch and Lomb Optical Company was operating and growing. William Gleason was working in his machine shop and watching it grow. The

nursery business was doing well, and flour mills were grinding wheat.

The city was already famous for its industry. James G. Cutler invented the first mail chute. The first voting machines were manufactured here. The first fountain pens were made here. The Western Union Telegraph Company was founded in the old Reynolds Arcade Building. Cigarettes were made in a factory near the present Court Street Bridge. The Fox Sisters founded Spiritualism here. Women found their champion in Susan B. Anthony who was the leader for the Womens Suffrage Movement.

Life in the growing city was good. People were happy, family ties were strong and there was a firm Christian spirit among the people. Churches were being built and well supported.

The bulk of the people were Anglo-Saxon. They were conservative, strong willed people who took pride in their British background. They felt pride knowing this city had been founded by Colonel Nathaniel Rochester, one of their countrymen.

Next was a growing German colony. Bausch and Lomb sent recruiters over to Germany and brought back entire families to work at the growing optical firm. The clothing industry and shoe manufactures likewise employed many skilled German craftsmen. They were good workers. They never complained, they respected the authority of factory ownership, they worked long hours for little pay.

They lived very much to themselves. They did not mingle with other races. They had their distinct culture, they spoke a strange gutteral language and were respected for their strong religious feelings.

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

The first German Lutheran Church in Rochester was founded in 1836. It was called Zion Lutheran and was located on Grove and Stillson Street. The building still stands and is used as a Jewish Veterans Post.

Zion's was a large rectangular brick building. It had a strong congregation of over 300 people. However, over the years it developed a strong class structure. There were many internal problems. The congregation was split over economics. Those who owned a business were in one group, the working people were in another group.

In 1868 the majority of the economic upper class Germans formed a new church. They named it Reformation and they built it just across the street from the mother church. This was the beginning of "church splitting" that has, with few exceptions, been the growth of Lutheranism in Rochester.

## NEW YORK CENTRAL RAILROAD

Believe it or not, the railroad had a large share in forming our own congregation. Instead of the overhead bridges along Central Avenue, the railroad had its tracks on the ground. In 1882 the tracks were elevated.

Sunday mornings the trains would shuttle back and forth blocking the crossings. Horse drawn wagons had long waits before getting across. Many Sundays people would be late for church. Zion Church leaders spoke with railroad officials. Nothing could be done. The stock answer was, "You can't stop progress."

Coupled with the railroad problem was more division at Zion's. The people living north of the railroad were farmers and laborers. Leaders at Zion's did not consult them. They had little voice in the running of the church. They felt discriminated against. They were causing discord by speaking of forming another new church. To prevent an open break the Zion Council viewed the situation as follows: (1) The trains were a problem, causing people to be late. (2) The time involved in getting to and from church was long. (3) The people involved were becoming a problem. (4) People outside of the church were talking and it reflected on the Zion image. (5) Having just healed the wound of the Reformation split they could not afford another split.

The Council had a good solution. One that would indicate their deep concern, and, one that would attempt to heal any split. The Methodist Church had built a chapel on St. Joseph Street. However, they had erred in the building. Germans were not Methodists. The building was small and vacant. It was acquired by Zion's and offered as a meeting place to the "people north of the tracks".

## **AUGUST 18, 1873**

A happy, handful of people held its first meeting at the chapel on October 20, 1872. They were within distance of their homes. They had fought hard to win a point. They had great pride in meeting together. The next stop? Easy. Why not form a mission church? How long did it take before this "new idea" was born? One month. In November 1872 the people voted to establish a mission church at Buchan Park and St. Joseph Street. Property was purchased, building was started, and the congregation prayed, worked and gave of their money together.

The people met on August 18, 1873 and the church was founded. It was called, "Deutsche Evangelische Lutherische St. Johannis Gemeinde."

## 69 BRAVE PEOPLE

Can you imagine the strength of purpose contained within 69 men and women determined to build a congregation! Not only to build and to sustain but attract other people. All this while the men worked 12 hours a day or longer for a few dollars a week!

The German community was still thinking about the 1871 Prussian victory over the French. In Rochester, Susan B. Anthony and 13 other women were arrested for voting in a National Election. Ulysses S. Grant was elected president for a second term.

Looking back 100 years we can see the pitfalls. From all sides they should never have started and even if they did start, they should have failed.

Nationally, there was a financial panic. Banks and business firms failed by the hundreds. There was overspeculation, overproduction and foreign money was withdrawn. Jobs were scarse, debts remained unpaid!

Foreign financiers went into a huddle. Germany adopted the Mark, the United States adopted the Gold Standard.

Yet, it was an exciting time. Despite the small pox, the Spinal Meningitis, the lack of jobs, people believed in themselves and the power of God to make wrong, right! The population of Rochester was a few hundred more than the 62,386 in the 1870 Federal Census.

Why did they bother? Why not go along with the times? Why fight the crowd? Why spend time and money for another church? Why not take it easy? What difference did it make? Who really cared?

The 69 men and women in 1873 rejected the above questions. They had a vision, a determination, a faith that could only see the light at the end of the tunnel. Their purpose, with the Help of Almighty God, was simple--build a church.

## THE FIRST CHURCH COUNCIL



1873 - 1877 Rev. E. Heydler

The first church council called Rev. Ernest C. H. Heydler as its pastor. Elected to council were Mathias Nothacker. Andreas Burkhard (these men do not show in any of the city directories); Hellmuth Krapp, a carpenter who lived at 40 Lowell Street; Frederick Seith, a carpenter of 22 Kelly Street; Adam Schnell, a cutter of 4 Elmira Street; J. Michael Lang, a mason of 49 Maiden Street; Carl Mass, a blacksmith of 45 Catherine Street; Frederick Lauer, a mason who lived at the corner of St. Joseph and Hoeltzer Streets; Johann Krautwurst, a shoemaker of 30 Scrantom Street and Frederick Schmidt, a shoemaker of 8 Sellinger Street.

## · 1874-1875 GOOD YEARS

The church was growing. Children were all over the place. They needed education along with Lutheran training. Why not start a parochial school? No sooner said than done. On January 7, 1874 the St. John's Parochial School opened with 131

children. The teaching was done by the pastor. Classes were long, discipline was strict and learning was good. Naturally, the language was German.

On June 14, 1874 a cornerstone was laid. Men worked long hours to dig the basement before cold weather set in. Just in time, the basement was completed and the first service was held there November 29, 1874.

Work progressed on the new building and on a warm summers day it was dedicated. On June 27, 1875 the entire Lutheran community was invited for the dedication. Over 400 people enjoyed the service and refreshments.

Rev. Ernest Heydler was the main speaker. He pointed out the workings of the Holy Spirit as it gathered a small group of people with a desire to build a church and how it had grown and prospered to this moment of dedication.

## 1876-1887 CLOUDY DAYS



1878 - 1884 Rev. J. Muelhauser

In 1877 Rev. Ernest Heydler resigned due to poor health. The Rev. J. Muelhauser was then called and he served from 1878 to 1884. Rev. Muelhauser was not experienced in financial matters. Congregational giving was poor. Bills could not be paid on time. Mortgage payments were slow. There was a very real fear that the church would have to close due to financial problems. There was no official body that could help with money. The individual congregations had to struggle on their own. It was sink or swim! The Council realized the weakness of leadership and on July 1, 1884 Rev. J. Rechsteiner was installed as St. John's third pastor.



1884 - 1887 Rev. J. Rechsteiner

There was a birth of learning in Rochester. In 1881 the Revised Version of the New Testament was on sale. Its first day on sale over 1,500 copies were sold. In 1883 Prof. Swift discovered a new comet from the newly constructed Warner Observatory on Prince Street. In 1884 George Eastman's new company manufactured the first photographic films. In 1884 Rochester celebrated its 50th year as a city.

Into this excitement of a re-birth of learning Rev. J. Reichsteiner excelled. He was a scholarly man. His sermons were scholarly. He spoke excellent German. He dazzled the council with his knowledge.



Students and staff from the school. Notice the similarity of dress and the shoes the children wore. The staff does not look very permissivel Picture taken about 1884.

Many people complained. They did not understand this man. His sermons were above the level of the congregation. His friends were not the carpenters, masons or shoemakers that made up the congregation. His interests were all in the academic field.

It was with much relief and a feeling of pride that the church accepted his resignation in 1887.

Rev. Reichsteiner was the Fourth Director of Wagner College from 1902-1904. Our congregation helped in many ways in the early days of this college. It was

founded in 1883 and sponsored by the Rochester Lutheran Conference of New York. John G. Wagner (who also helped our church financially) donated funds in the name of his deceased son, George, for the purchase of the first campus on Oregon Street.

## REV. JOSEPH NICUM -THAT MAN!

Older members still get misty eyed when the name of Rev. Joseph Nicum is mentioned. He is refered to as, "that man". He was installed October 16, 1887. He was a short man. He was a dynamic man. He was a dictator in his approach



1887 - 1909 Dr. J. Nicum

to church problems. Yet, he was a kindly man. He gave of himself.

In 1888 the star Lantern Works had a horrible fire in which many women died.

Rev. Nicum spent hours trying to help the victims at both their homes and in the hospitals. On the other hand he thought nothing of beating a child with a stick if he talked in school.

His pastorate was strong. He pulled the church together. He gave meaning to the phrase of "let's work for the Glory of God". People depended on his strength. He expected much from the church leaders and he received their best.

In 1891 the church built 2 towers, bells and a clock were installed in the towers. A cement walk was built around the entire property. He re-established the parochial school.

The church had been far in debt prior to Rev. Nicum. He did the impossible! In



Coal stove used to heat the schoolhouse. After the school closed it was used to heat the Men's Bible Class in the old schoolhouse. Notice the wire screen to prevent getting burnt. This type of stove was still used in the schoolhouse in 1941.



Pen and ink drawing of the church before the steeples. Notice the horse and buggy! Streets were of dirt! The schoolhouse is behind the church.

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1896 every cent of debt was paid and the church was finally debt free!

On August 21, 1898 St. John's celebrated 25 years of life. Theme of the celebration was, "Looking Ahead". There were 2 services; one in the morning and the other at night. Over 1,000 people attended.

In 1904 a new organ was installed and at the same time a new altar was dedicated.

November 1, 1909 was a sad day for the church. "That man" died. Impressive services were held and he was laid to rest. Burial was at Mt. Hope Cemetary. He was deeply mourned by a congregation that he served day and night for 22 years. He was scholar, orator, disciplinarian, husband, Christian, pastor.

### 1910-1915 WAR CLOUDS

After Rev. Nicum died the council selected Rev. Edward Quade, a member of St. John's to serve until a permanent man could be selected. He served from December 1909 to April 1, 1910 when Rev. Andrew Blum was installed. Rev. Blum came from Lancaster, New York.

It was a difficult choice to make. Many people wanted a change from the hyperactivity of Dr. Nicum. Rev. Blum was that man. In contrast he was quite, reserved, soft spoken, tender. His forte was quiet persuasion.

Rochester had grown to over 218,149 persons according to the 1910 Federal census. George Eastman had given thousands of dollars to the University of Rochester, to the parks and other projects. A new spirit was growing. People talked of America. Children no longer wanted to be associated with the ethnic past of their parents. Last names were being changed by children to disguise their



1910 - 1930 Rev. A. Blum

ethnic origin. In many homes children refused to speak the language of the parents. It was English. It was America. It was a new day.

In Europe there was talk of war. Not much talk, but enough to make some people listen with concern.

Some people in St. John's wanted English services. Impossible. In 1911 the council allowed some English services only during evenings.

The 40th Anniversary was held November 30, 1913. It was a single service.

The young people insisted that in seeking a better tomorrow, English services be held on Sunday mornings. In 1914 English services were held on Sunday mornings--but secondary to the main German Service.

## GOD WALKS IN IRON BOOTS

With a blinding flash the expected happened! War! Once again man faced man with orders to kill or be killed. Like a disturbed ant hill man ran over the face of Europe killing for a thing called nationalism.

Hatred poured forth from all sides. Propaganda mills spewed forth words of hate like a sewer pollutes a clean river.

It was a difficult time for St. John's Church and the German Community. Feelings were deep. Hearts were broken as sons went away to fight their German relatives. Some ministers flamed the fires of hatred by preaching sermons about German soldiers cutting off the hands of Belgium children, playing catch with children by tossing them on bayonnets, horrid tales of mass rape etc. After the war, not one case of such stories was ever found. Yet, at the time, people took sides.

Many young men from the church served the nation. On September 21, 1919 these men were honored with a banquet. It was a sad, yet happy time. Ask Clarence Eggert about those days.

## POST WAR YEARS

March 18, 1923 the church was renovoted. The war years were fading. People were starting to live and think of the future. The pulpit and lectern, which we still use, were given to the church by the wife of Dr. Nicum in his memory. Both of these items were objects of art and on exhibit at the San Francisco World's Fair. These were dedicated at the March 18, 1923 service.

A Golden Jubilee Service was held October 14, 1923 when the church celebrated its 50th year of preaching Christ.



An impressive sight of the church interior about 1889. Note the covered pulpit and the organ pipes in what eventually became the altar area.

Since 1873 the church property had been held in the name of the Zion Lutheran Church. In April 1925 it was finally deeded over to our church. It was felt that Zion's being the mother church, should hold the property. As far as we can learn no rent was paid to Zion's.

On August 11, 1925 Rev. and Mrs. Andrew Blum moved into a new parsonage which had been built at 39 Alcazar Street.

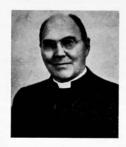
## DEPRESSION YEARS

Silk shirts, and stocks--an easy way of life, came tumbling down with a crash on October 29, 1929. Like Humpty Dumpty the stock market slid to bottom. The cry of "more money to cover the margin" was heard. Wealthy people, reduced to poverty within a few hours, jumped from New York sky scrapers. The average working man found himself with mortgage payments on house, car and other items going unpaid due to lay offs. Soup kitchens, apple sales, chemists as elevator operators, bread lines, lost homes, wiped out savings-these were hall marks of those days.

St. John's was hit. The congregation worked at Eastman Kodak, Bausch and Lomb and Delco Appliance for the main part. Lay offs, short time work weeks, public welfare was our lot. Those who worked contributed to the church. Others not so fortunate, still came and did what little they could.

Rev. Blum was doing his best to help. However, he became ill, and on February 3, 1930 he took a leave of absence. He never recovered. He died on a hot summers day--July 1, 1930. It was a blow to the congregation. He was beloved, and had served the church for 20 years.

Pastors H. Reichert and G. Lampe served while the Council sought a new minister. Again, God was kind to the church. On January 1, 1931 Rev. Paul Schmeider was installed. He was from Philadelphia, Pa. A tall, powerful man.



1931 - 1944 Rev. P. Schmieder



Church interior as it appeared in 1955. The altar area was very impressive. It had great dignity.

Rev. Schmeider took over the reins with a strong hand. In February 1931 a new roof was installed on the church. He had a great love of music and insisted upon good choirs. On June 14, 1931 new choir vestments were dedicated. A strong choir director named, Carl Baumbach, was to make his mark for many years upon the music of the church.

With money scarce, Rev. Schmeider took a voluntary cut in salary. There were many months when he turned his salary back to the church.

On July 1, 1932 the city had a severe lightning storm. The church was struck by lightning and damage was severe. The walls, ceiling and floors were damaged. Repairs were started and on November 6, 1932 rededication services were held. Services were held in both morning and evening and attendance was large. A new lightning system and complete redecoration of the interior had been completed.

The church had grown, services were in both German and English. At special services, attendance was over 1,000. He was a powerful speaker.

Due to the large number of young people Rev. Harold Haas was called as Assistant Pastor in 1943. In later years Dr. Haas became a distinguished educator.

In 13 years Rev. Paul Schmeider had done the impossible. He had drawn the people together. He had instituted big changes such as the rotating church council, the strong choirs, the new organizations, the large growth of the congregation. However his wife had died. He was lonely and told the congregation he had reached his peak.

On November 1, 1944 he resigned. He desired to return to Bethanien Lutheran

Church, Roxborough, Pa., a church where his father had served for 30 years. We cried when he left. He was a strong willed man who had a heart of velvet. He has since died.

# AGAIN GOD WALKS WITH IRON BOOTS

The fathers had marched away in 1918. Now their sons were marching away to the Second War. Europe was in flames and suddenly on the other side of the world, Pearl Harbor throbbed to a piercing crescendo on December 7, 1941. The die was cast. The hatred mounted. Everyone knew long before the terrible date what would happen.

The young men of St. John's, along with millions from all over the world, wrote history in Iwo Jima, Bougainville, Kakan Valley, Anzio, Rapido River, The Rhine, Berlin, London, Rome, Paris and many other places where blood and dirt became one substance.

The church kept track of its men. Albert Kosbab, himself a World War One veteran, will always be remembered for his concern and his sending of gifts and letters to those in the military.

## POST WAR YEARS

On August 1, 1945 Rev. John A. W. Kirsch became our new pastor. He had served in Elizabeth, New Jersey before coming here. He was the first pastor in 58 years to have a family.

A gentle, compassionate man he had no trouble fitting into the life of the congregation. One of his first tasks was to appoint a committee to review the past, present and future growth of the congregation.



1945 - 1957 Rev. J. A. W. Kirsch

The committee met frequently for one year of research and discussion and concluded the church should relocate. There were 3 major reasons for the conclusion (1) The cost of renovating the building would be tremendous. (2) There was no parking. (3) The area was in a marked period of change.

At the December 1946 Congegational Meeting the report was discussed. Over 150 people were there. Speeches were long and emotional. Many openly wept at the thought of leaving the church. The vote was taken. Except for one vote, all voted to relocate!

At the close of the meeting Rev. Kirsch prayed, "Oh God, look kindly upon our decision to seek new horizons and new goals."

## NEW HORIZONS - NEW GOALS

The war had ended. Tears still flowed but the wounds were slowly healing. Veterans were picking up their lives. The church was a bee hive of activity. It was going forward. Committees were appointed to study building costs, raising of money, building plans. It was a busy time. It was a time for giving thanks!

In Europe the clouds still hung low. Misery was everywhere. The stench of war sickened the survivors. The Lutheran Church set up a commission to help the German families. Many wished to migrate to our country. The commission was called the German Refugee Commission.

Families were interviewed in Europe. Those that passed the screening were then sponsored by a church member. It meant that a church member, to act as sponsor, would sign as collateral his home in event the refugee became indigent.

Rev. John A. W. Kirsch and Frank Haimerl were leaders in this movement. It was amazing how the people of St. John's responded. Many veterans acted as sponsors. New familes came to this nation as a result of faith, one towards another. Not one refugee became a problem!

## THE 75th ANNIVERSARY

It was a week long celebration with a Service of Reunion on September 29, 1948. There was a German Social, a meeting of Confirmands, a church school social and the Service of Reunion. Guest speaker was Dr. Paul Andrew Kirsch, brother of Pastor John Kirsch. There was also a pilgrimage to Mt. Hope Cemetary where tribute was paid to the memory of Dr. John Nicum. Our membership in 1948 was 1,080.

The Church Council in 1948 was; Rev. John A. W. Kirsch, Albert Kosbab, William Beuthling, Carl Buholtz, Frank Schutte, Jr., Roy Sharp, Carl Adamek, Otto Albrecht, Horst Bruns, Robert Dense, Edward H. Drier, Albert Fedrau, Herbert

Horler, Leonard Karweick, Clifford Pitt, Charles Reisig, and Carl Zollweg.

The 75th Anniversary Committee, in addition to the Church Council, was Miss Elsie Eggert, Mr. Fred Keller, Mrs. Charles Klem, Miss Wilma Klem, Mr. Charles Kosbab, Mr. Harvey Meyer, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Muckstadt, Mr. Arthur Plotzker, Mrs. William Schindler and Mr. Edward Wenke.

During 1948 over \$42,000 was pledged towards the new church! It was a good year!

Church Historian, Charles W. Kosbab summed up the 75th Anniversary as follows:

"The 75th Anniversary, which we celebrated in a year of great national and international tensions, finds us grateful to God who has guided and Blessed our beloved church on its journey. We seek to be loyal and confident as we face the

challenge of this generation. We Thank God for the noble souls who have labored here before us and we salute the stalwart and faithful ones of to-day. As we share the fruits of their labors, may we be worthy sons and daughters of a greater St. John's."



Charles Kosbab Beloved Leader and Church Historian Died June 6, 1970



The Brass Orchestra (Posaunenchor) of the Nineties



## THE PRESENT

From 1948 to the present is a generation! Not a long time, if you think of time. Yet, a lot of water has gone over the Genesee Falls, a lot of lives have been changed, and our church has been caught up in a swift moving river--called time.

## 1948

There was a happy feeling in the congregation. Things were going smooth. Attendance was up, people were talking about the new St. John's. Pastor John A. W. Kirsch, and his wife Lillian were happy and surprised when the congregation presented them with a new 1948 Chevrolet car. At the same time, a fund drive for a new church was held and pledges totaled \$42,622.84!

## 1949

In February 1949, the congregation authorized the New Church Building Committee to (1) Hire a church architect (2) Make preliminary plans for a new church building (3) Purchase a new site for the future St. John's.

Many sites were looked at. Some were on Seneca Avenue, some on Titus Avenue. However, on April 3, 1949 our present property was purchased for \$10,000. It consisted of about 5 acres of land and was part of the Engelhardt farm. When the property was first purchased the Rochester General Hospital was going to build across the road. However, the hospital did not build on that site due to quicksand which was found in test borings.

Ridge Road was rural! The area consisted of small truck farms, fruit stands and rugged farm homes and barns! Looking at the rapid growth of the present area its hard to believe! Clarence Eggert had

done a remarkable job in helping to make the purchase. What we purchased for \$10,000, 24 years ago is worth \$1,000,000 at to-day's market!

Once the property was purchased members would drive out to look it over. Many were surprised that it was in the middle of farm land. Great concern was that we would be isolated and nothing would make the area grow. Where would new members come from? There was nothing but farm land!

## 1950

In January 10, 1950 there was a severe wind storm. The storm ripped off one third of the church roof. Huge sheets of copper were torn off and fell to the street. Water, mixed with ice, caused extensive damage to the interior and the wind caused further damage to the chimneys. Fortunately, the steeples did not buckle under the gale force wind. Insurance covered part of the loss. Repairs were made at a cost of \$5,000.

Out with the old, in with the new! It seemed centuries but finally, the congregation on April 17, 1950 adopted a new church constitution in the English language! Prior to this time the constitution was in German!

Later in the year, the New Church Building Committee issued a statement that shocked the congregation. It would cost a minimum of \$250,000 to construct a new church! Impossible! Unreal! Never! Let's forget the whole thing! However, after the initial impact other members felt that hope, faith, need, would make us reach the goal. Thanks be to God for their faith in the future!

## 1951

Europe was a gigantic refugee camp. Millions of people were displaced. Misery was the normal way of life. Lutheran Churches under the Lutheran Refugee Act did their best to help. They sent money, clothing, food to relatives or to relief agencies. In addition, families were migrating to our country when sponsored by a citizen. A sponsor signed legal papers making himself responsible for the financial support of the migrating family should they become a public charge. Sponsors had to be property owners.

Pastor John A. W. Kirsch was the leader behind this effort not only in our congregation but in the area. Prior to this time a few people came but in 1950 and 1951 many people were sponsored. Frank Haimerl did a magnificent job in helping people get settled, answering their questions and easing their fears.

In most cases migrating families never knew who sponsored them. Not one of the many families brought over by our mem-



Frank X. Haimerl

bers ever became a public charge. Thanks be to God for open hearts!

#### 1952

A musical first in the nation! Under the direction of Dr. Carl Baumbach, the choir, assisted by musicians from the Eastman School of Music, presented a cantata by Dietrich Buxtehude, "Rejoice Beloved Christians". Over 1,000 people filled the church for this marvelous musical evening,

Things were rolling along. Richard Kerbs, secretary of the Adult Bible Class reported 45 members in regular attendance. The Brotherhood, Ladies Aide. Sunday School and other organizations reported excellent progress. As was the usual custom, food baskets were distributed to members and non-members who were in need. Baskets consisted of chicken or turkey, canned goods and other food items. They were distributed at Thanksgiving and Christmas. In addition the needy were always looked after by our members with fuel, money, clothing, job help etc. Thanks be to God for helping hands!

The Building Committee was hard at work. Mr. Donald Walzer a local architect had drawn plans for a new church at an estimated cost of \$232,640.

## 1953

We celebrated 80 years of preaching Christ! Highlight of the Anniversary was a building fund appeal, \$75,000 in pledges were obtained during the year!

Theme of the appeal was made by Mr. Charles E. Reisig who said, "By relocating we are transplanting St. John's and like a plant which has come from good seed, planted in new fertile soil, we will grow anew with God's help and guidance. We hope to raise \$125,000. This amount is needed to meet our minimum

requirements. We have our site on Ridge Road East for which we paid \$10,000. We have no debt and no mortage. We have \$43,000 in our Building Fund treasury. We must not fail in our efforts to advance and build a new God's Kingdom here on earth."



Charles Reisig Died February 2, 1965

Stirring words. You would think they would move hearts of iron. Yet in the months ahead the dream of a new church almost died. People were afraid. They felt the money could not be raised. They felt the site selected was in the wilderness. There would be no growth. The present building should be renovated. There were many reasons advanced for saying -- "sorry, nice try, but let's forget it."

Yet, a handful of men and women believed what Charles Reisig said. Due to his untiring efforts, his faith and sincere conviction that God would find a way, we overcame doubts. Once and for all we got behind the new church. The curtain closed on the past. Once the curtain re-opened it was a new scene. Thanks be to God for constructive and positive thinking!

## 1954

If ever there was an important year it was 1954!

Plans for the new church were going forward. Pledges were being paid. The church itself had been put up for sale. A small struggling Mt. Vernon Baptist Church wanted to buy our church. The price? At the time, some oil companies were bidding for the property. Tear down the beloved old building for a gas station? Never! We would sell it for \$50,000, to the Baptists.

On February 22, 1954 the congregation approved selling the building for \$50,000 to Mt. Vernon Baptist. It was a venture in faith.

Under the guidance of its beloved Pastor, Reverend Robert Warfield young and old, children, men and women knocked on doors all over the city. They solicited dimes, quarters, fifty cent pieces, dollars, any and all went towards the goal of \$50,000.

Rochester opened its heart as the news media told the story of these dedicated people that worked night after night collecting money for their church.

A new architect had been engaged and with his plans, Louis Sagers made a model of the proposed church. It was displayed in the Nave and was studied and commented on by members. Here was a concrete thing. Something people could touch. It helped achieve our goal.

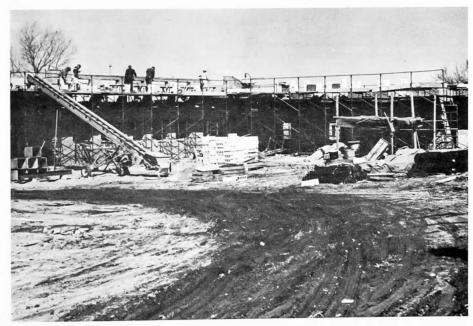
The Building Committee had been working overtime! Plans had been studied, restudied. On October 17, 1954 at a special congregational meeting a motion was made and seconded that we approve plans at a cost of \$160,000. for a new church and educational wing.

Immediately, the general contract was given to the LeCesse Corporation, Rochester, N. Y. It was the successful bidder for the job. William DeNise was approved for Plumbing and Heating. Wenzel Van-Amersfort was approved for Electrical Contractor.

October 24, 1954 was an overcast Sunday. Members drove to the new site. It was ground breaking! The church was outlined on the ground with white chalk. Most thought it looked much too small when they compared it with the wide open fields.

The following day construction began. Power shovels, bulldozers, blocks, bricks, trucks and men were on the job. We had begun!

What about the Building Committee? Over the years there had been some changes but the majority had been working from the beginning. Meetings at the start were once a month, then they increased to twice a month and then were weekly and then 3-4 times a week! Each man had been given a speciality. It was his job to get as much information about his subject as possible. He knew costs, time for completion, companies, quality and from this mass of information he would make a recommendation. The recommendation would then be discussed. Special nights would be set aside for company salesmen to make presentations. Meetings started at 6:30 p.m. and many adjourned at 1:30 a.m. Wives were complaining; they weren't "golf widows"-they were "construction widows"!



Brick, by brick the walls started to grow higher. Many members would stop by each day to see how the building was

The Building Committee was broken down as follows;

\_\_ Harvey Meyer

Charles &

William Merkel

Donald Munson

Charles Reisig

Theodore Klem

Audio-Visual Construction Church Furnishings

Decorating Educational Wing Flooring Heating Kitchen Landscaping & Parking

Louis Sagers Theodore Klem Albert Kosbab Ronald G. Barres Lighting Frank Haimerl Memorials Rev. John A. W. Kirsch Organ Edward H. Dreier

The dream of Charles Reisig ended with ground breaking. Yet, William Merkel actually saved the building. Without his dedication and the hundreds of hours he spent in supervision, the project would have failed. Thanks be to God for accepting nothing but the best effort!

## 1955

The Cornerstone was laid on a warm Sunday afternoon, May 15, 1955 at 3:30 p.m. The stone itself and the trowel used in its laying were gifts from William Merkel and his family.

It contains 25 separate items. Some are; Common Service Book, Synodical Constitution, Congregational Constitutions both German and English. Copies of local newspapers, coins of the day, pictures of the new building and educational wing, church calendar and other historical items.

The Rev. Alfred Beck, President of the Rochester Conference, delivered the address. It was a thrilling and solemn occasion. It was a fitting climax to the hundreds upon hundreds of hours a small

group of men had given to complete a task. Their reward was a new church!

One Building Committee member said, "From the very beginning we had problem after problem. There were times when everyone thought we had failed. It did not seem possible to surmount all the obstacles in our path. But, God always opened another door for us."

## THE LAST SERVICE

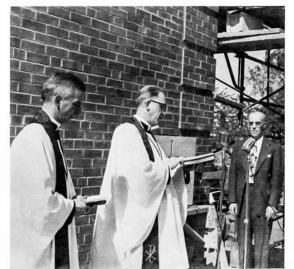
It was like closing the door forever on an old friend, or perhaps saving good-bye to a loved home. The last service on Joseph Avenue and Buchan Park was held November 27, 1955. The pews were all filled. People stared at the lovely wood altar. The stained glass windows never looked lovlier as sunlight came through them. Even the old pipe organ sounded majestic at the last service. Everywhere were memories. Even the narrow stairways seemed wide. The furnace room was spotless, the gigantic coal furnace was glowing as it sent hot air up its long arms. Alex Kirstein would never have to feed the monster again. He would never have to scoop out, deep within its gizzard, the ash it did not want!



Alexander Kirstein Beloved Retired Sexton



William Merkel and Edward Drier push the corner stone into place. It was a thrilling moment!



Rev. Alfred Beck, Rev. John A. W. Kirsch and Frank Haimerl at the cornerstone dedication.



Emmanon Players in action at the old church, Left to right: George Haag, Ronnie Barres, Marjorie Barres, Cyril Brown and Margaret Yaeger.



The last service at the old church.





Anyone you know? The first service in our present building.



Overflow crowd in Social Hall at first service. Note model of our building on the stage, It was made by Louis Sagers.

The basement! That's what it really was-a basement. Wood floors that creaked, groaned and sank in at different spots. The raised platform that we bravely called a stage. But what plays we gave there! People came from all over the area to see our plays. The lack of stage was made up by the professional tone of the production!

Viola Wehner, Clara Zilinski, Bill Beuthling, Ed Wenke, Cyril Brown, Jane Zilinski, Wilbur Stein, Margaret Yaeger, Marjorie Barres and on and on; they knew the fun of rehearsals, the up-tight feeling when lines were forgotten. But loved the applause at a job well done!

The wooden tables that doubled for church suppers and desks for the Sunday School, Such a dark grey, but so practical!

That last Sunday everything was so perfect. The music, the Scripture read-

ings, the prayers. It made you wonder why everything was perfect.

The Altar Candles were put out. The Service had ended. So had 76 years.

## THE FIRST SERVICE

The new church was ready. Like a new jewel it shone. Floors were waxed, chairs set up, organ fully tuned and ready for action!

December 4, 1955 was a cold snowless day. It was the Second Sunday in Advent. It was no suprise. Everyone knew, everyone was ready. We were fortunate, the roads were clear, snow would not be a problem.

The congregation and many visitors had gathered early. Chairs were set up in the Social Hall for latecomers who would hear the Service over a loudspeaker.

At 10 a.m. it began. Rev. Kirsch and Rev. Frederick Kneubel started the procession from the Social Hall. Following them were members of the Church Building Committee bearing the Holy Bibles, and Sacramental Vessels, and then the congregation. The procession wound up the outside stairs and into the church.

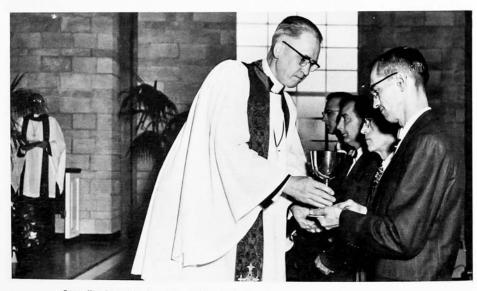
Dr. Kneubel was handed the keys to the church and cried out, "Peace Be to this House."

The congregation replied, "And to all that enter therein."

It was a new beginning. Thanks be to God for each new day.

The Church Council at that time was; President, Rev. John A. W. Kirsch, Vice-President, Frank X. Haimerl, Secretary, Edward Bescher, Financial Secretary, James A. Ross, Envelope Secretary, Arthur F. Pohl. Members; Ronald G. Barres, Glenn L. Bellis, William E. Beuthling, Jr., Edward C. Burbott, William J. Gawer, Carl E. Graupman, Donald G. Kraft, Louis P. Sagers, William G. Schlageter, and August Siegel.

Dedication Program Committee consisted of Robert Wittmann, chairman, Mrs. Paul Muckstadt, secretary; David Barringer, Mrs. Ruth Frank, Frank X. Haimerl, Richard H. Kerbs, George Maas, Harvey J. Meyer, Mrs. Elizabeth Schla-



Pastor Kirsch receiving Sacred Vessels from lay leaders at the first service in our present building.



New Church Building Committee, Back row, left to right: Donald Munson, Albert Kosbab, Edward Dreier, Carl Graupman. Second row: Ronald Barres, Rev. John A. W. Kirsch, Frank Haimerl, Theodore Klem. Front row: Louise Sagers (deceased), Charles Klem, William Merkel and Harvey Meyer.

gater, Miss Viola Wehner, Mrs. Eleanor Wolff and Harold Zollweg.

## 1956

Our first year. It was time for counting. How had we done the first year in our new location?

79 new communing members were added.

There were 3 active choirs.

There was a 30% increase in pledges.

A new church bus was purchased with money loaned from the Brotherhood. It was for picking up people with no transportation. It had a regular route with voluntary drivers.

Lutheran World Relief had a clothing drive. The response from our congregation was so great, trucks had to take the clothing from our church to the railroad!

The Fellowship Club which had been active in the old church had a new event each month.

People responded gladly to all appeals.

There was a new spirit in the people.

Yet, on the horizon some dark clouds were gathering!

It was felt by the Church Council that the German Service should be eliminated since we were in a new location and we did not want to be regarded as an ethnic congregation. A congregational meeting for the express purpose of discussing this matter was held. The meeting was attended largely by members having an interest in the German question. Various men spoke indicating reasons for imme-

diately dropping the service, Pastor John A. W. Kirsch stated he did not want the German Service to be dropped immediately and suggested alternative plans. The members at the meeting voted overwhelmingly to retain the German Service and phase it out as suggested by Pastor Kirsch.

The Church Council then sent out a ballot to each member of the congregation asking them whether they wished to continue or to drop the German Service. The votes were counted and the decision was made to drop the German Service. This was a traumatic blow to many members of the congregation.

## 1957

1957 started out very appropriately with a New Year's Eve party which was celebrated in the new church social hall.

In August 1957 Pastor Kirsch resigned from his post. It was a blow to our congregation. He had steered our church through many rocky passes. He had lifted our spirits, he had set an example with his gentleness and his humility. He had instilled zeal and determination in the lay people. Together, we built our church Thanks be to God for men such as Pastor John A. W. Kirsch!

A Pulpit Committee was appointed and many pastors were interviewed during the fall of 1957.

Within a few years the area which was once farm land and fruit stands suddenly blossomed. Auto dealers, restaurants, shopping centers grew like mushrooms. To protect the future and learning from the past (many years ago the Church Council had a chance to buy land from Joseph Avenue, down Buchan Park to North



It's a thrilling sight to see the young people leave during the Sermon Hymn for their own classes. They are the church's greatest treasure for they represent the future!

Clinton Avenue and along Morris Streets but turned down the offer feeling Rochester would never grow much further north than Clifford Avenue) the Engelhardt-Kort home and land was purchased for \$22,000. This was to be used as a Youth Center and a Boy Scout Home.

## 1958

The last German Service was held in the church on January 26, 1958. We had lost a large number of German speaking people.

The Council felt that future Pastors should buy their own home. As a result a larger salary was to be given and at the same time the former parish home on Alcazar Street was sold for \$14,750.

The walls in the church, Social Hall, Fireside Room and class rooms were the original grey block color. Men volunteered their time and painted rooms in the Educational Wing, Social Hall and kitchen. They worked nights and week ends.

The Building Committee was finally terminated and the care of the church placed with the Council. Members of the Building Committee at time of termination were; Edward H. Dreier, Frank X. Haimerl. Harvey Meyer, Charles Klem, Carl Graupman, Ronald G. Barres, Albert Kosbab, William Merkel and Louis Sagers. Mr. Sagers died the same year.

After Pastor Kirsch left, the church had been supplied with the following supply Pastors; Dr. Paul Kirsch, Rev. Theodore Trost, Rev. Roger Greentaner, Rev. Frederick Teichman, Rev. Milton Arndt, and Rev. Walter Smihula. Pastor Smihula took care of our Confirmation Class.

The Pulpit Committee had selected a young man named George F. Haag who was serving as Pastor of Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Schenectady, New York. They met with him, interviewed him and on July 13, 1958 a call was issued.

He accepted and on September 1, 1958 he was installed as our eighth pastor. Services of Installation was held at 4 p.m. with Dr. Russel Fink, President of the Rochester Conference, as speaker.



The parking lot is filled on Sunday morning. We can park over 150 cars.



Rear view of the church. At present the rear door is used as the main entrance due to the slope of the ground.



A contemporary colonial building. The steeple was all built and then raised into place with a derrick.



Custodians home on the property. It has been marked as a historical site by the Town of Irondequoit.



Construction of the Health Spa being built to the immediate east of our church.



The Altar. The focal point in our worship.

Rev. George F. Haag did not start out as a minister. His training was in the field of Physics-he was a scientist. His scientific training was from Oberlin College, Ohio. In his junior year he spent a year doing work for the NASA Program at Cleveland Ohio. Something happened in his thinking. It was slow, not a sudden change, but he felt that the church was the most effective tool for a better world.

He entered Gettysburg Seminary and in 1952 he was ordained. He took his first church at Our Saviour, Schenectady, N. Y. and came to us as his second pastorate. This brilliant, complex man has many hobbies including photography, audio sound and camping.

In this year he instituted two services, one at 9:30 a.m. and the other at 11 a.m.

The congregation was introduced to the new Hymnals with its 3 seperate musical settings. There was much grumbling at this new Hymnal yet the people who grumbled then would be the same ones to grumble now if it were taken away!

## 1959

The Tower Audio System was dedicated.

Review of Membership Rolls was completed and showed we had 427 active members; 159 inactive members; 112 persons were lapsed; 443 communing members.

#### 1960

Many gifts of money were left to the church for furnishings. Miss Adele Pestke, Miss Clara Krause and William Albrecht were among those who left gifts.

The new church carpet was installed.

## 1961

New acoustical ceilings were installed in the Pastor's office and Social Hall.

#### 1962

A Roll Review showed we had 600 communing members. Pastor Haag stated, "We are dead serious in regarding the use of the Sacrament as a true indication of membership."

Acoustical ceilings were put into the kitchen and Fireside Room.

Aluminum siding was put on the church tower and the upper portion of the church front entrance.

A new church sign was constructed and installed on the front lawn.

A floor was laid in the attic of the Educational Wing. This was done by men of the church.

## 1963

The church was 90 years old! The theme of the celebration was "Serving Christ Through Nine Decades of Faith". Chairman of the anniversary was Mrs. Mildred Sheehan.

Confirmed Membership was 645; Baptized 857 and 508 Communing.

Members 90 years and older were; Mrs. A. Gustke, Mrs. R. Gearing, Mr. O. Pestke, Mrs. E. Burbott and Mrs. A. Zollweg.

The Church Council in 1963 was; Carl Graupman, President, William Schaaf, Vice-president, Robert Young, Recording Secretary, Viola Krause, Treasurer, John Adamek, Financial Secretary, Robert Peters, Envelope Secretary; Edward

Bescher, William Beuthling, Jr., Edward Burbott, Otto Failner, Rev. George Haag, Maynard Knapp, Herbert Lennox, Edward Schlegel, Milton Sheehan, Donald Spencer, Arthur Taillie.

## 1964-1965-1966

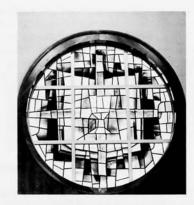
The church was saddened by the death of Mr. John Schmidt, Council President, in 1965.

New robes were purchased for the Chapel Choir.









Upper Left: The Lecturn was on exhibit at the San Francisco World's Fair about 1908 and given in memory of Dr. John Nicum by his wife. The eagle is symbolic of St. John.

Lower Left: The Baptismal Font of Italian marble with a teak wood cover.

Upper Right: Brass pulpit, also a gift in memory of Dr. J. Nicum. The Lecturn, Font and Pulpit were in the old church and moved here. They are valuable objects of art and can not be replaced.

Lower Right: Beautiful glass window symbolic of Cross, Bible and Cup given by Mrs. Freida McAvinney in memory of her beloved husband, Frank. The times were changing. A new unrest was felt throughout the nation. Old values were being questioned. Civil Rights was the topic of the day-do your own thing was paramount in young people.

A feeling of insecurity was felt by everyone. This was reflected within our own congregation. In 1966 Council President Roy Sharp stung the congregation with criticism of, "A lame performance by a crippled congregation."

## 1967

Wood candleholders were installed for the church aisles. These were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Klem.

A new community organization called "Parents Without Partners" was granted permission to meet in the Social Hail. This group still meets and is as welcome as ever.

A need for more Sunday School teachers was called for by Superintendent Burton Conklin.

The church itself was in need of decoration. Approval was granted for finishing the interior at an estimated cost of \$22,000.

#### 1968

The Fellowship Club had a gala party to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Pastor George F. Haag as our pastor.

Rev. Albert Horn, a highly respected and much loved member of area Lutheranism was appointed Church Visitor. Rev. Horn is best known for his creative years as Director of the Rochester Lutheran Inner Mission.

Transfer of property with Mr. G. Smallridge now gave us complete access

to Miller Lane on the north east portion of the property.

The parish house on the property had new siding installed.

A voluminous report was completed by Ronald G. Barres on our congregation in relationship to our society.

## 1969

For months the congregation held services in the Social Hall while skilled craftsmen redecorated the church interior. Members would walk among scaffolding, lumber and tools each Sunday to see how the work was progressing. Like the change from spring to winter each week saw the work drawing to an end.

On November 30, 1969 the work was done, the workmen had gone and left a fitting gift after their sawing, pounding and nailing. The interior was beautiful. Dr. John A. W. Kirsch was the speaker at the Rededication Service.

Development Committee members responsible for the project were; Robert Peters, chairman; Frank X. Haimerl, Carl Birr, Otto Failner, Charles Klem, William Merkel, William Schaaf, William G. Schlageter, Edward Schlegel and Roy Sharp.

Gifts were from individual members and also organizations; Altar Guild, St. John's Brotherhood, Kitchen Group, Dorcas Society and Fellowship Club.

A stained glass window was the highlight of the celebration. It was donated by Mrs. Frieda McAvinney in memory of her beloved husband, Mr. Frank McAvinney. This was designed by the Pike Glass Studio.

## 1970

Plans were underway for the 100th Anniversary.

The finances of the church were in excellent condition as President Arthur Pohl indicated, "Once more God has seen our Congregation through another year. He has again Blessed us most generously --in spite of an economic slowdown we have received a larger percentage of our pledges than in almost any previous year and all our current bills are paid."

On February 4, 1877 a Young Men's Society was formed in the church. It was a group of men from the church formed for the express purpose of promoting the "whole program of the whole church". Over the years it had grown to a large organization and paid benefits of \$6.00 a week for sickness and \$125.00 for death. However, it was declining and on May 11, 1970 it voted to disband. The money was distributed among the remaining members after all expenses were paid and gifts of \$100, to the XYZ Club and \$1,000 to the church was paid. Total amount was \$11,000. Officers at the time of disbanding were; Edward Burbott, President, John Adamek, Vice President, Franklin Hiller, Treasurer, Albert Kosbab, Recording Secretary and Edward Wenke, Financial Secretary.

## 1971

From now on Congregational Meetings were to be held the first Sunday in February.

President Arthur Pohl stated in his message to the congregation; "I am once again awed by God's ability to sustain his people, to bless them."

Plans were going ahead for the 100th Anniversary celebration.

## 1972

A \$50,000 fund raising project for completion of the Educational Wing and for furnishings was approved by the congregation.

100th Anniversary Committee was completing plans for 1973.

#### 1973

Back in 1970 we sat around and tossed ideas back and forth about 1973. It seemed a long way off! What kind of birthday should we have? Perhaps a week of events or maybe something in the spring and fall. 100 years for a church is a long time in this country.

Just look at the empty churches that collect dust and cobwebs or resound to the thud of being used for storage. Hymns of praise just forgotten memories of a by gone day.

We had to have a celebration that had force, impact, meant something more than a few speakers. With this in mind we felt that a full year with a number of events would have the right thrust. Something for everyone, art shows, speakers, fun nights, prayer, worship.

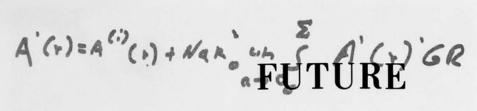
So here we are. No longer ideas or plans. It's time we put them into action. Have Fun!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY





It poured all night and half the morning but by noon the sun came out and the church picnic at Powder Mill Park, September 1972, was a great success. The gals played some golf, the men pitched horse shoes, the kids drank pop!



+ naving

Future! An interesting word! It has so many meanings. It takes the phrase-"what might have been" and transforms it into "What might still be"

Future and hope are so very close they melt into one another. Its holding a baby and wanting it to have wisdom, joy and long life. Its standing at the bed of a long suffering loved one and hoping for a speedy end of life and the start of life everlasting.

A' G = (n'-1)K

It keeps us going day into day. Without the hope of to-morrow we could never last the day. We live for the present but yearn for the future. We bear the problems of to-day with the hope they will ease in the day to come. We are thankful for our blessings and pray they will continue in the future.

Σ A' (i) G

We place the future in the bodies of our children and grandchildren. We place the future in the hands of many people. Most we don't even know-yet we have hope and trust. Such people as the airplane pilot, the driver of the oncoming car to keep in his lane, the person that cans our food, bakes our bread, bottles our milk. Our future depends on so many factors, most of which we have little control over.

2 2 6

It is a wonderous thing to place our hope for the future in the hands of Almighty God and accept what is dealt us. We take our modern world for granted. Television, electronics, people on the moon, outer space! They are so common we regard them as trivia!

Our founders in 1873 might have thought about the next 100 years. 1973 was a long way off. In the wildest dreams no one could imagine what 1973 would be like. The horse and buggy was standard! Submarines, airplanes, automobiles, motion pictures, electric lights, antibiotics, heart transplants, space ships, television, radio, refrigerators, washing machines-! Away with him, poor fellow, he has lost his mind!

We, to-day, are in the same position! Few of us can imagine what the world will be like in 2073. The man of 2073 will look back with a shake of his head and a smile on his lips as he thinks of the year 1973--just like you think of 1873!

Did you know that more knowledge has been accumulated in the last 18 years than the total of all the years man has been on earth? Astounding! Does it frighten you just a little? Do you feel less sure of your values? Does the advance of science, sociology, medicine and the other tools of mankind make you less secure? Don't worry. You will be all right. Mankind has always muddled through.

But what about the future? Lets apply our imagination to the future.

## THE CHURCH

What about the future of the church? The contemporary church seems riddled with permissiveness. We see a breakdown of values. We seem more anxious to compromise than stand firm on principle. We are inclined to give up ideas for a temporary relief from decision.

Benjamin Franklin, almost 200 years ago, said, "Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety."

We see vast divisions in various church bodies and in single congregations. Many see a drop in church attendance, church giving, retreating from past principles as a total disillusionment with the church as an active and responsible institution.

The future of the church certainly remains in doubt. Great anti intellectual forces are at work in the world. Great forces of bigotry often cloaked under the terms of liberalism have unleashed upon the church, not a feeling for the future, but actually an erasing of traditions past so we are standing in a void with the past shrouded in the fog of misunderstanding.

We hear much shouting of the irrevelancy of the church. Debates are conducted on the role of the church in our contemporary society. Unfortunately, these debates already have failed since they do not allow the debate to take a progressive course. The conclusion already has been drawn and they only desire to make the facts or conditions fit the pre-conceived conclusion! Is it any wonder that people question the maturity of the present leadership in the ecclesiastical world?

We have seen tragic examples of church leaders shouting the cliches of the street, marching, carrying banners, and protesting in an atmosphere more conducive to a Roman circus, than the solid values that ecclesiastical thought and debate should encompass. As a result, people are becoming disillusioned with the church as an institution. Yet, God reigns secure and supreme in his Creation. There certainly is no lessening of the feeling for love of God in contemporary society. Yet, the revelancy of the church under its

present leadership is seriously open to question.

The future? There are unmistakable signs upon the immediate horizon that the spirit of permissiveness is fast reaching a high water mark. People are tired of confrontation, tired of immature thinking, tired of seeing illogic replacing logic. Tired of its appalling lack of common sense as it applies to the church as an institution.

The revolution must come, not from the clergy, but from the laity. Strong minded people such as you and I must meet this challenge head on. If we do not, then we can only reap the harvest of barren fields where the seed has died.

However, there is convincing evidence that mankind will not allow this to happen and we shall rescue the institutional church and return it to the preaching of Jesus Christ, for the individual man, woman and child.

The future of the church? Certainly, God will not let His Creation fail.

### YOUTH

Many people past the age of forty look at the younger generation, shake their head and feel that the future is totally insecure. They see young people raised in a permissive society, who, in their opinion, lack a sense of responsibility and a sense of maturity. Men would be hard pressed to study a young generation such as we have without being totally amazed. Much has been written about the drug scene, the lack of morality, the lack of values. Yet, what has been written is relating to a small handful. The vast majority of youth will have a better sense of values.

Not haunted by young fears born of

depression years or war years, our youth will engage in more creative fields and will be better protectors of the ball that floats in space- our earth.

Generation gap? A writers phrase that would be applicable in the days of ancient Rome, Babylonia or even to the Nomadic tribes that have forever wandered over the deserts. When has it ever been different? Thank God, child and parent do not think alike on many issues. If they did-there would never be a yearning to change, a desire to grasp a star or dream of the future.

To deny the future is to deny life. When you and I are dust in a long forgotten grave with our problems, visions, and sadness all gone, man will still be striving. He will take two steps forward, one and a half steps backwards-yet he will have gained half a step. That half step is taken by each younger generation. Believe this and help our young people to build solid foundational values.

If you believe in your children and your grandchildren you have already met the future.

## MEDICINE

Within our 100 years, Medicine has advanced from the point of giving a man a quart of whiskey until he was insensible and then sawing off his leg, to today, where open heart surgery and heart transplants are becoming more and more frequent. Certainly, within the next 100 years, the problem of cancer will be solved. Some type of a stainless steel pump will be perfected for the use in heart transplants. Organ transplants will be common and surgery will reach new heights. Medicine will be on a preventative basis. Unbelievable diagnostic tests will be devised so early cures can be taken to prevent any damage. The average

age of life will expand to well over 100 years and people will be vigorous at 125 years. Various chemicals will be produced to slow down the aging process. From 1873 to 1973 the advances have been astounding. From 1973 to 2073 they will be totally unbelievable and utterly fantastic.

### GENETICS

This will be the science of the future. Mankind will reach the point where breeding of people will be as commonplace as we breed animals today to perfect certain characteristics. Sperm of brilliant men will be stored and used to perpetuate their abilities. We will breed out of the human race many imperfections. Truly, what Friederich Nietzsche said, "Modern man looks upon the ape and laughs at his antics. Superman will look upon modern man with the same disdain." If today we can make a race of people any color through the use of genetics, what will the future be? Many of these programs will come under close moral scrutiny. However, mankind will go forward in his search for the eternal and his search for the perfectness of God.

## AGRICULTURE

Astounding yield, per acre will be commonplace. Strains of wheat, oats, rice and other grains will be perfected for total resistance to disease. Huge areas that are now wasteland will have been reclaimed for use. Hydroponics will be used to much greater advantage than ever before. Hydroponics especially will be useful as we populate the moon. The starvation that faces huge areas of the world in 1973 will be a thing of the past. Today millions are born every year who never experience a full meal in their entire lives. The horrors will be gone as the means of distribution, diet, and population control are promoted throughout the world.

## WORLD CONTROL

In our time we are seeing a huge struggle between two ideologies for control of the world. Within the next 100 years, we will see more and more nations being accepted into either the eastern sphere or the western sphere. Certainly, the ideology of our nation will be pitted against the ideology of the communist block. As time goes on, Canada, Mexico, the Philippine Islands, and areas of Asia and Europe will become a federated part of the United States, and likewise areas of Asia and the Middle East will come under communistic influence. Mankind will be headed for one world. Obviously, this will not be accomplished by the year 2073. However, towards the last part of the 100 years, huge changes will take place in the world and mankind will finally stand on the threshhold of seeing one world under a federated control.

## THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations will be a major factor in helping mankind to become one world. Problems such as hunger, drugs, medicine, weather, and outer space research will have greater impact and emphasis as the leading nations of the world recognize that we have to work together in matters of common good or perish. Drug traffic will eventually be eliminated because of its insidious control of man's mind. Cooperation will become more and more extensive as common problems are met and solved. As we see in our own time, close cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States in matters of medical and outer space research, so shall we see greater closeness and greater commitment among all nations of the world as time progresses towards the year 2073.

## WAR

The aggressive nature of mankind makes the total elimination of wars almost impossible. However, the actual act of war will quickly be solved by peace keeping forces throughout the world. The causes of war, mainly economic, will be eliminated as we progress towards a common goal of one world. As we note in our own time, the lessening of tensions in the world through diplomacy, so in the future, greater steps will be taken to lessen the danger of war. No longer will armies march across the face of Europe or Asia as they have in the past. This will be due, not to a lessening of aggressiveness, but in recognizing the futility of solving problems by violence and by killing.

## **OVERPOPULATION**

This will be controlled within a very short time by putting a substance in common edible items such as bread or even water to prevent ovulation. Women will have children in the future only by taking some type of drug which will allow them to become pregnant. This will put a control on population. We will be living in a controlled type of society, but this will do away with the horrors of abortion. This will especially be true in nations which are slowly evolving from cultural and economic backwardness.

## AMERICAN CITIES

The crowding of millions of people into small areas will be gone. Cities will be small, about 30,000 persons. Thousands of new Communities will be designed for better living. They will do away with high rise apartment living as not suitable for psychological stability. As leisure time develops cities will provide parks, cultural activities and vacation changes for the inhabitants. Slums will be gone and

crime will be diminished as genetics develop. Unheard of conveniences will be common place. Shopping will be made easy by the use of computers. The science of communication will be astounding. Pollution will be remembered only by older persons. Technology working with government will solve pollution. Living will be pleasant.

## TRANSPORTATION

The car of the future will be powered by some type of atomic reactor. It will be small, pollution free, it will have built in electronic systems that will prevent accidents. Roads will have an electronic ribbon so you will never drive, just sit back and the computer will do the driving.

You won't drive into the center of cities. Endless belts will provide easy access to any point,

Underground tunnels with vacuum devices will speed people from one end of the nation to the other. These will be built for ease of maintainance and safety. Underground travel will take the place of air travel as we know it to-day. World flights will have planes that travel at speeds over 3,000 miles an hour. Short hops will be in small crafts that handle with the ease of an automobile and will have built in electronic devices for safety.

Tunnels will connect England with France. There will be plans for vacuum tunnels under the water, connecting close land masses.

As oil vanishes, atomic reactors will provide power for ships. The large liners of to-day will vanish as air travel makes them obsolete. Freighters will be massive and designed so they sail almost submerged under the water. This will allow for greater size, speed and safety.

## **OUTER SPACE**

Within the next 25 years people will live on the moon. Children will be born there and fly back to earth for education. From a small start space travel will go on and on as better ships are built and technology solves basic problems. Families will live together in space stations for months at a time while gathering information. By the year 2073 space travel will be common. World scientists will work together on this project and gravity will be understood.

## YOU

Your seed will be perpetuated through your children and their children. What kind of a person will look at the sun set, be bathed in the beams of the moon on a clear night? Will the changing colors of fall move his soul? Will he thrill to the cry of the hawk and look with wonder and compassion on the fawn as she trembles at being seen? Will he look at the tiny formed fingers and toes of his baby and wonder at the beauty of birth?

The struggle that has taken place in the past should be beneficial to him in his time. The struggle that cleared a forest for the plow will be gone. The tenacity that pushed man through the wilderness while making crude maps so others could follow will be replaced by most modern instruments. But will it be the same thrill?

No doubt future man will accept his time as we accept ours. He will no more be impressed by his means than we are by ours. If anything, his problems will deal with interaction of man rather than man against his environment. Even in this time we see the change coming. Man will not be frustrated in his wish for unity.

You will be there living in your future grandchildren. Don't you wish you could return for just a week? You would probably be more astonished than your own grandparent returning in this time.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

This will be the future. All branches of science will advance to fantastic heights. Computers will solve problems. Despite the obvious advantages of such a strong new world there will be many human problems.

Can moral questions be programed in a computer?

Will there be a challenge to life or will it be a matter of better electronics?

What will be substituted for trial and error?

Will there be a family unit as we know it?

What about self satisfaction-will error free computers do away with the achievement factor?

Will genetics make us intellectual robots devoid of love and hate?

As the work time becomes less what will we do with the leisure time?

Who will control?

Will self determination be sacrificed?

Will man in his desire to make a better world, be like Dr. Frankenstein and create a monster?

Or will man realize that while he proposes God disposes.

Thanks be to God!

## HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

1-That we examine ourselves as individuals and then how we relate to other individuals. This self examination should reveal our own limitations. Once this is done let us as individuals re-dedicate ourselves. Our motives must be relevant.

2-What is St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 800 East Ridge Road, Rochester, N. Y.? Is it a building? Is it people? Is it hopes, dreams, like smoke? Is it hopes, dreams made real through flesh and blood? How important is this church? Does it serve a purpose deeper than a social organization? Who is the head of this church? Does it have a goal? Do you know what the goal is? Do you like the goal? What are you doing to help reach a goal?

3-We must strengthen the ties we have towards each other. The concerned human to another concerned human can move mountains. This human tie must be made stronger. We must have deep concern towards others in the church and help them. Not with pious phrases but with actual deeds. Many of us have personal problems, limitations of ability and character. The elderly are lonely, need help. The young need understanding, and help. It's not necessary to go miles away to help others. Let us look to our own congregation.

4-We can not be an island. There is a vast world of people with different skin colorations, cultures and ideas. We can not turn away when our brothers ask for help. We must cultivate a spirit of constructivness and wholesomeness in our dealing with people we find different than us. All too often we criticize without factual information. We tear down when we should build up. We condemn when we should praise. We hurt through words and deeds when we should lift up with helping hands and words of encouragement.

5-We must recognize that some aspects of the church are gone. The food basket, the benevolence, the collecting of money for works of charity-these are fading away. The millions of dollars the governmental agencies spend in helping the poor and needy make our benevolent programs look like a drop of water in an ocean. Remember, it is our taxes that go for governmental aid programs all over the world. Actually, our country is doing vast amounts of benevolent work. What do we substitute for the benevolent dollar? Ourselves! Our church should have as much knowledge about reference resources as possible. At the same time we should be active in a variety of organizations so christian ideals are maintained.

6-We must sharpen our tools! Bible study classes should be held on a number of levels so all can benefit. Can you imagine a doctor not keeping up with the latest in his field? What about the professing christian that knows next to nothing about the Bible? We should have a number of small groups engaged in study programs to better understand God's Word and God's World. We take things for granted. We discard things we should keep and keep things we should discard. Education in all fields-that is part of christian growth.

7-We must put on more mature spiritual garb. The idea of worship one hour a week is gone. We should have daily prayers with our families. No meal should be eaten without a word of thanks. We must cultivate a brief moment of meditation and prayer each day. Walking with God is not a nice thought, it's a cold hard fact! In our technical society we overlook a simple fact-we are born and we die. The time in between these two facts we call life. Regardless of what life brings we are born to God, we live in God's world under God's physical and spiritual laws and we die in God.

8-We must be strong in our convictions. This is not a time for half hearted motives. This is not a time for half baked ideas. We must be sure. We must be willing to be counted. It is a time for getting involved and being counted. Even children know there is a struggle going on in the world. Our papers and television bring us news of this change in attitude, news of this change in direction. Only the most blind refuse to acknowledge this. The person who says, "I don't have time", "It's not my problem", "I don't care", -- such persons will be swept away. If ever there was a time for concern, dedication and prayer it's this time.

9-We all have talents. Some can write, others preach, some can sweep, some can cook, some teach, some pound nails, some wash dishes, some plant flowers, some make us laugh, some direct others. Some can play the organ, others can sing, some can act in plays, some are good listeners. Talents are strong things. They are only of use when they are used.

10-We have to plan for the future in relationship to our building. Like any home owner things wear out, something needs to be repaired, an addition must be considered. With the slope to the ground from Ridge Road to our rear entrance no one uses the front doors of the church. You would have to park your car and then walk up the drive to the front. It's much easier to park and walk through the rear door into the Social Hall and then climb the stairs to the church. Easy if your yound and in good health. A real job, at times impossible for older people or those with heart concitions. It should be of top priority to study a means of having a drive at the front of the church. True, grass will be sacrificed. But with good planning a drive with parking facilities can be established. At the same time when are we going to finish the Fire Side Room with wood and new furnishings? Likewise let's complete the Sunday School rooms. Young people like attractive surroundings. It's just another way of saying we are concerned. Realistic goals should be set. Realistic plans should be made. Realistic action should be taken. Money has never been a problem at St. John's once the people know what is required and believe in what they are told. Communication is the key word between the planners and the congregation.

11-When all is said and done, when all the fine words are spoken, all the music ends, all the lights are dimmed, you and I will still be here. The year 1973 started and ends. Some will have gone, others will be born. The hall-mark of the individual will be, "Lord, teach me the way, my eyes see the light but they grow weary. My feet long to run but its a struggle to walk. My heart beats faster when I think of all that needs doing. Use me Lord. I am yours."

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS -1973**

- January 7: Rededication Sunday
- January 21: Rev. Paul Young, Dean of the Rochester District, LCA
  Upper New York Synod, will be preaching.
- January 25: Wagner College Choir Concert.
- February 18: Dr. Edward Kerstew Perry, President of the Upper New York Synod will preach. This will be followed by a Buffet for church leaders with Dr. Perry as guest.
- March 14: Rev. J. D. Jackson, pastor of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church will preach at this Lenten Service. In addition the congregation of Mt. Vernon will worship with us. This congregation purchased our old building.
- March 17: Pancake Supper at the Social Hall from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

  This is an event sponsored by the Fellowship Club.

  Reservations needed.
- March 18: Dr. Theodore Trost, former Librarian at Colgate Rochester Divinity School, writer and lecturer will preach.
- April 8: Rev. John Barringer, Epiphany Lutheran Church, Burtonsville, Maryland will preach. \*
- April 14: 100th Anniversary Birthday Party. Full evening of entertainment with skits, solos, group numbers, food and other goodies as only the Fellowship can create.
- May 5: 100th Anniversary Banquet at Valle's Steak House, East Ridge Road. Dr. Raymond Doell will be toastmaster. Dr. Ralph Lowe will be guest speaker. Dr. Lowe is internationally known for his preaching, writing and lecturing.
- May 6: Dr. Albert Stauderman, Editor of THE LUTHERAN magazine will preach.
- May 27: Rev. Arthur Haimerl, Ascension Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio will preach. \*
- June 3: Confirmation Rally, Buffet supper will be served at the Church Social Hall.
- June 16: Irondequoit Art Club "clothes line" exhibit and at the same time the Fellowship Club will have their "Strawberry Social. This will take place on the church property. In event of rain it will be held in the Social Hall.
- July 8: Delegate to the Upper New York Synod Convention will make a report to the congregation.
- August 5: Mr. Robert Wolff, Seminarian at Gettysburg Seminary, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania will preach. •
- August 12: Mr. Clarence Neun of New York City will preach. He is with the United States Department of Immigration. \*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS -1973

- August 19: Mr. Norman Merkel, Toledo, Ohio will preach. He is a social worker with the Family Services of Greater Toledo. \*
- August 26: Rev. Albert Horn, St. John's Church Visitor will preach.
  Former Director of Lutheran Inner Mission Society and
  expert in Geriatrics.
- September 16: Congregation picnic at Powder Mills Park, Rain or shine.
- September 20: Special Program presented by Lutheran Church Women.
- September 23: Church School Program.
- September 30: Rev. John A. W. Kirsch, former pastor, will preach. Dr. Kirsch is at the Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cleona, Pennsylvania. After the service a short coffee hour will be held. This will be followed by motion pictures of past years. Picnics, church affairs, old scenes, ground breaking etc. etc. will be shown. Next, will be a dinner in honor of Dr. Kirsch in the Social Hall. Fellowship Club sponsored. All invited. Reservations needed.
- October 20: Boy Scouts of America, Otetiana Council will present a Scout Skill Show on our church property.
- October 28: Dr. Paul Empie will preach on this Reformation Sunday.

  This beloved man has helped millions of needy with his work throughout the world. He is now retired and makes his home at Zionsville, Pennsylvania.
- November 11: Rev. Raymond Probst, chaplain of St. John's Home for the Aging will preach. Rev. Probst is an expert on problems of the aging. He is a member of the College of Chaplains and travels frequently for speaking engagements in his field.
- November 25: Special Memorial Service.
- December 9: Dr. Walter Bock, Wagner College, Staten Island, N. Y. will preach. Dr. Bock held pulpits in Berlin, Germany, has served on International Church Committees and is at present Director of Church Relations at the college.
- December 16: Mr. Ronald G. Barres, chairman of 100th Anniversary Committee will preach.

Traditional Christmas Dinner and Hymn Sing held by Fellowship Club. This will be held in Social Hall. Date will be announced.

There will be other events. These will be publicized as they draw near. Naturally, there will be the traditional events as in past years. Events will be noted in the Newsletter or by special mailing.

<sup>\*</sup> son of the church.



Joan McKnight, Church Secretary



Jean Berner, Clerk



Sandra Janchuk, Church Organist



Harold Peake, Custodian



Fred Maurer, Sexton



Otto Failner, Property Comm. Chm.

# THE STAFF

Many people do not realize that our building and property has a value close to \$1,000,000 and within the next 5 years it will be over that figure! As of now, property on Ridge Road is about \$40-60 a foot! We have over 7 acres of property!

To maintain this property is not difficult with the efficient staff. Over 1/4 mile of halls, 17 class rooms in the educational wing, the social hall and Sanctuary require constant care. Mr. Otto Failner, Property Chairman and his staff see that floors are clean, windows sparkling, repairs made, snow removed with the help of large trucks, grass is cut, sprinklers are maintained, trees and shrubs trimmed, snow fences put up and taken down and on and on.

The office staff works with modern machinery and puts out innumerable letters, Newsletters, charts, keeps records, prepares bulletins, and handles the hundreds of small details that keep us going.

The organist makes our worship more meaningful as she skillfuly releases sounds that put us in tune with the infinite.



Betty Larker

#### BETTY LARKER

My church is the foundation of life itself, where I can strengthen my faith and receive comfort. Where I can work with others to serve my fellow man. Serving as Sunday School Superintendent has been a great source of enjoyment. The youth, when given the chance, are ready and willing to serve their church. With the present world conditions as they are, this is a great source of strength to me.

#### CLARENCE O. EGGERT

The church teaches me the true meaning of life, by nurturing within me a deep and abiding faith in the Almighty Creator and His Only Son, Jesus Christ, in whom is found the only way to eternal life. She is a praying church with the lamp of truth held high, preaching the Gospel, administering the Sacraments whereby men are brought to faith. Established by Christ, His Church stands immovable, A House not made with hands.



Clarence O. Eggert



Edward Burbott

## EDWARD BURBOTT

I look back on a lifetime of good fellowship, meaningful and inspiring sermons, wonderful and joyfull church music, outstanding choirs, choir directors and organists. Friendships that have lasted throughout the years and the sad memories of beloved ones that have passed away. To me, my church has influenced to a large degree, my way of living and I thank God for this feeling.

#### MINNIE BEUTHLING

St. John's has been my church since 1923, when at age 10 I started Sunday School. My church (my home away from home) has helped me through many personal crisis. Whenever an important decision had to be made, it seemed as though the answer would somehow be given me through a sermon, a song, a Bible passage, or a helping pastor. Although I visit other places of worship, sometimes in very far away places, it's always good to come home to my people, my church.



Minnie Beuthling



James R. Hill

### JAMES R. HILL

The church has meant many things to me throughout my thirty-three years as a member of St. John's. It has taught me the word of God, which has helped me through many good times as well as bad. Because of the many dedicated people of St. John's, who were Sunday School teachers of mine, I have been able to know God and have a faith to live by. My prayer is that St. John's has another hundred years, so my children will be able to know God and have a faith to live by too.

## HELEN E. GIBBS

The church means many things to me, mostly memories. I was baptized, confirmed and married in the church. My children and some of my grandchildren were baptized and confirmed there. There are pleasant memories of all the boys and girls that I had in my Sunday School classes, and then there are the friends I have made in church and in the organizations I belong to. Last, but not least is the spiritual guidance my church gives me.



Helen E. Gibbs

Mildred Sheehan

## MILDRED SHEEHAN

St. John's is a communication between my Lord and me. By working for the Church I am serving Him. It is because of love for God and St. John's that I participate in organizations and various activities and endeavor to assist and contribute in whatever way I can to help our church. In a small way, I am trying to perform our Father's Work.

#### IRENE KIESOW

It's sometimes hard to put in writing how you feel inside. Feeling God's love and the experience of inner strength gained helps us to realize God cares about everyone of us. I think what the church means to be is basically a re-affirmation of faith or a repeatedly stronger or more positive faith.



Irene Kiesow



James E. Meyer

## JAMES E. MEYER

St. John's is filled with the presence of Christ and the Communion of the Holy Spirit. It is people coming together, in worship and fellowship, to do God's Will. I have been a member all my life and I am filled with memories of many happy times. St. John's to me means loving, sharing and serving the Lord.

## CLARA ZILINSKI

The church means a way of life. It gives us a strong anchor so we are not swept away when trouble enters our lives. It teaches us the meaning of life through faith, that despite what happens there is some meaning to the events that shape us. I saw this faith in my parents. I see this faith in the world and in my own life.



Clara Zilinski

## JOHN ADAMEK

I look with pride to-day at my church as we enter the year for our 100th Anniversary, and see the accomplishment made through sacrifices, talents and money. We see our church stand out like a sentinel on Ridge Road. I am proud to day that this was the work of the members of our congregation. May we all look forward to honor our commitment to our beloved church through our weekly stewardship pledges and our 100th Anniversary Appeal. By so doing our church will grow and prosper. We need your talents and your services to make this a reality. Pray for our future success.



John Adamek

#### NANCY GRUVER

Far above other things I would like to see true peace and harmony of all men and faiths. Also I would like to see a uniting of all Christian faiths since we all believe in the same God.



Nancy Gruver

Donald Schmitt

#### DONALD SCHMITT

My church is a guide line for my actions in my work and everyday life. Most of all it is a help in raising my family as it leads the way to a full and rewarding family unit. In return I willingly give myself in service to the Church Council and in other areas. I see the church as a stepping stone between my God and myself, and I'm proud to be part of a church that helps in so many ways, not only in the community, but throughout the world. Thus my church and myself share a union that shall be lasting and fulfilling.

## DR. NORMAN KALENDA

The church is one road that mankind uses to approach God. It is imperative that mankind reaches out to God. The Holy Spirit acts as the catalyst making this desire possible. Mankind, working together in a constructive manner tries to put into the world the precepts of Christ, the most important being love, hope and charity. The church as an institution is only a collection of like minded individuals all in various stages of development with the ultimate goal of trying to achieve a life fashioned after Christ.



Dr. Norman Kalenda



Nancy Pohl

## NANCY POHL

I always enjoyed the fellowship but I can remember little from attending Church school. Unfortunately, I have lost some of the interest that I once had. As many people to-day have a so called, "identity crisis", I feel that this is my situation regarding the meaning of the church. I truly do not know what my actual feelings are. I think that many people find themselves in that situation to-day. Those that say they have no time to serve God may find that prayerful consideration would show them that there is a way to make St. John's useful to the community and all of His Kingdom.

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#### AUDREY SASS

St. John's doesn't mean only my place of worship, but my place to serve our Lord in many ways which are so satisfying to me.-St. John's has provided me deep feelings, fellowship, kindness and friends I'll cherish forever. I pray these deep feelings of mine are present in us all in order to keep our church strong, with God's Help for its next 100 years.



Audrey Sass



George H. Schneider

## GEORGE H. SCHNEIDER

I am a life long member of the church. It means faithful attendance at all regular services, keeping current with your weekly contributions, daily scripture readings and prayers and living according to the Golden Rule, all bring that peace of mind that can only come from Above. Observing the above principles, as taught by our faith, is what my church means to me.

### ALAN SCHLAGATER

The church gives me a feeling of unity. The church is needed to bring people together to worship God. Through the church, people are given a feeling of being wanted and needed. As an individual, the church does all this to me. This is why I feel the church to-day is good.



Alan Schlagater



John Nyerges

## JOHN NYERGES

For the church and the world I want (more than anyone else would who is in their right mind) no pollution of any kind, no fear, no quarrels, no war, no killing animals needlessly (they have as much right to live, if not more). An understanding between people and God (sheep and the Shepherd).

#### ROBERT WITTMANN

St. John's Church means a great deal to me and members of my family. It is a place where I have found many fine friends. These associations have been a great help to me in my daily life. When we think of the church we think of worship. This is an important part of life, it gives us a meaning. Likewise the word Fellowship has much meaning. It's in dealing with our fellowmen that the deeper meaning of Christianity is displayed.



Robert Wittmann



Paul Muckstadt

## PAUL MUCKSTADT

Have you ever heard of anyone asking, "What church are you a member of?"

It more likely-would be, "To what church do you belong?"

And that is what church membership is all about. A sense of belonging, a oneness among the members in Christian Fellowship.

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## **OUR MEMBERSHIP LIST**

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Mr. Joseph Adamek 304 Avenue D.

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David Allen Zollweg 20 Squire Circle Penfield, N. Y.



Governor of New York State Nelson A. Rockefeller



September 15, 1972

Dear Mr. Haag:

NELSON A. ROCKETELLER

The 100th Anniversary of St. John's Lutheran Church of Rochester is surely an event for pious celebration.

You and your congregation can be proud that your house of worship has been a beacon of religious culture and a center of kind deeds for a century.

This occasion attests to both the devotion of successive generations of worshipers and the inspired leadership of successive pastors.

My best wishes for a happy celebration.

Sincerely,

The Reverend George F. Haag Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church 800 Ridge Road East Rochester, New York 14621

Dear Reverend Heag:

It is a pleasure to extend waru congratulations and good wishes to you and your congragation as you calebrate it.

The outstanding achievements as shown by you and your congregation, have benefitted the community, and I wish you continued years of service to mankind.

Regards for many more successful ears.

With best wishes.

Jeph K. Javits
Reverend George F. Haag

Reverend George F. Hasg 362 Sagamore Drive Rochester, New York 14617



United States Senator Jacob K. Javits

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January 11, 1973

The Pastor, The Church Council and All Members St. John's Lutheran Church 800 Ridge Road East Rochester, New York 14621

Dear Friends

This year of 1973 is truly a signal occasion for your band in the People of God.

Few of our congregations have the joy of reaching a full one hundred years of service to Christ and his Church as you are.

This century has witnessed cataclysmic changes in the world, in the City of Rochester, and in the hearts and lives of men.

When we think for a moment that many of the founders of St. John's Church probably emigrated to this country in sailboats, as did my gramdfather, and that we have not winessed the conclusion of a round of exploration of the moon we get a small glimps of the vicinstitude that the good members of the moon we get a small glimps of the vicinstitude that the good members of the content of the conte

My congratulations to you for your faithfulness, and the faithfulness of your fathers.

Please know of my special prayers on your behalf that your witness may continue true and firm in the Christian faith.



## AMES L BUCKLEY

## Minited States Benate

June 12, 1972

Rev. George F. Haag St. John's Lutheran Church 800 Ridge Road East Rochester, New York 14621

Dear Rev. Haag:

It is my pleasure to extend congratulations to St. John's Lutheran Church as you commemorate your 100th anniversary. Best wishes for continued success and growth.

Yours sincerely,

James L. Buckley

#### GENESEE VALLEY DISTRICT UPPER NEW YORK SYNOD

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

THE REV. JOHN F. BEED BECRETARY F.O. BOX 155 VICTOR, REW TORS 14544

December 29, 1972

St. John's Lutheran Church 800 Ridge Road East Rochester, New York 14621

I know that every congregation in our Genesee Valley District joins with me as we salute St. John's congregation as they celebrate 100 years in service to our Lord Jesus Christ.

John's has always been one of the strong congregations of our District giving strong support to the District programs and also supplying leadership in many various areas of the vork of The Church at large. We also appreciate the generous sharing of your fine fa-cilities for our activities.

Now that you have the experience of 100 years behind you, it is my hope that you will grow stronger in our work together and in the life within your congregation, ever holding forth our joint faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,

( Fand leegoung . Reverend Paul M. Young, Jr.

## LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

231 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016

TELEPHONE AREA CODE 212. 532-3410

Office of the Presiden

December 18, 1972

Mr. Bonald G. Barres St. John's Lutheran Church 800 Ridge Road East

Since I write as the representative of all the congregations of the Lutheran Church in America, I pray that you and your people will enjoy this numerous fellowship and that God will continue to stir you to faith-fulness to the work of our church throughout the world. In this way millions will rise up to call you blessed.

Cobert Till archell

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

JOHN 15:9-12

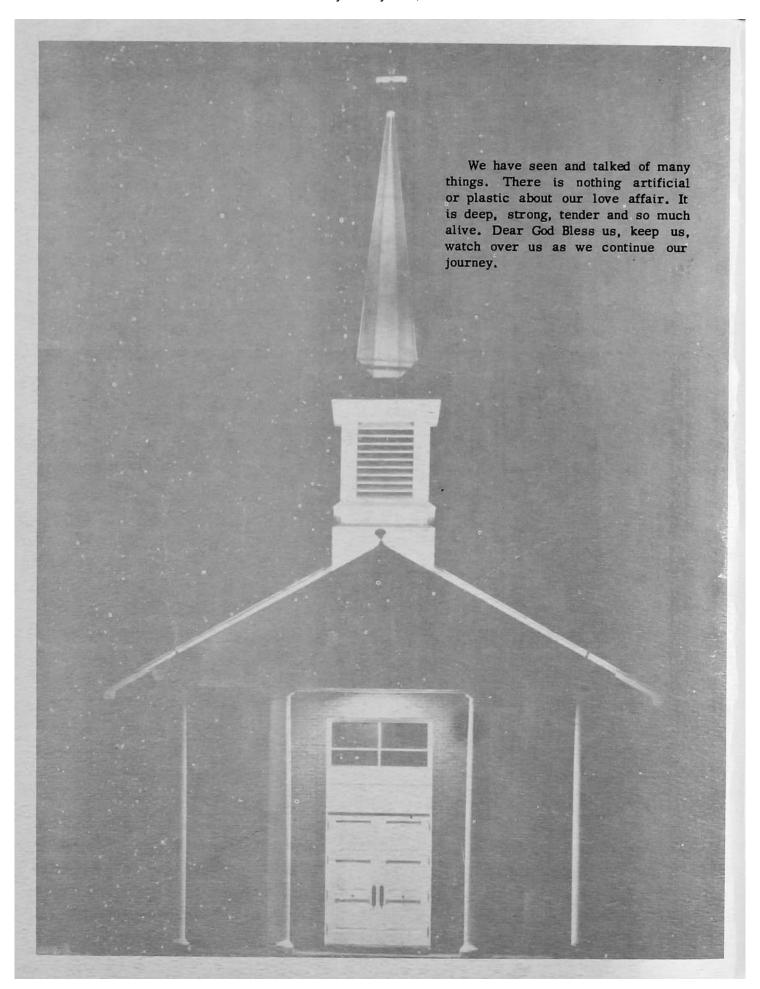
Rochester, N.Y. 14621

It was good news to hear about the one hundredth anniversary of St. John's Church, Rochester. As I contemplate the ministry of word and Sacraments that has filled that long period of time, I am impressed with the continuity in God's blessings. These have been linked with faithfulness by the people of the congregation.

This anniversary will cause you to look ahead. On the basis of past blessings you will have reason for great confidence and boldness and faith in the future.

I hope that your observance of the anniversary will prove to be an auspicious occasion, a time for experiencing fulfillment and a time for rededicating yourselves to the service of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Robert J Marshall



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