

Church/Organization: St. John's Lutheran Church
800 RIDGE ROAD EAST
Rochester, NY 14621

<http://www.stjohnsrochester.org/>

Years of Operation 1873 – present

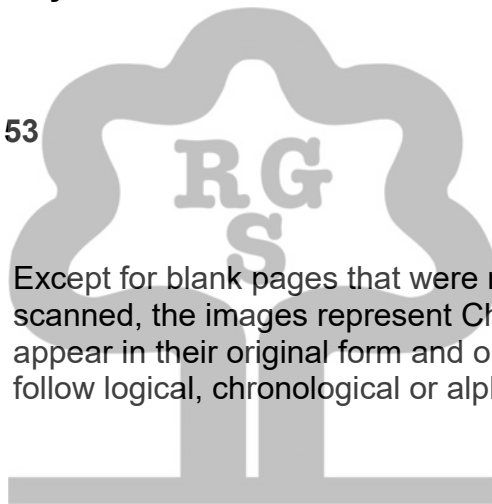
Volume Title: Anniversary 125 years, 1873-1998

Film/Scan Location: St. John's Lutheran Church
800 RIDGE ROAD EAST
Rochester, NY 14621

Dates Imaged: July 2014

Number of pages: 53

Notes: Except for blank pages that were not photographed or scanned, the images represent Church records as they appear in their original form and order. **Note:** not all records follow logical, chronological or alphabetical order.



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The Rochester Genealogical Society, Inc.
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125 Years -1998

ST. JOHN'S 125th
ANNIVERSARY







Sunday September 27, 1998



The Rev. Dale L. Dickerson, Pastor
The Rev. A. S. Kitts, I. Pastor Emeritus
Bishop Lee M. Miller, Upstate New York Synod
Mrs. Sandra Failner, Organist and Director of Music

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

800 Ridge Road East

Rochester, NY 14621

10:00 A.M. Special Music

Organ Prelude "Variations of 'Ein Feste Burg'"
(A mighty Fortress) ... Wilson, Bach, Rinck

Solo: "Schonster Herr Jesu" (Beautiful Savior) Soloist: Otto Failner

Solo: "God, you have Set Us" Soloist: Burton Conklin

Solo: "My Church, My Church" Soloist: James Meyer

Solo: "O, Lord, Most Holy" (Panis Angelicus) Soloist: Penny Dake

Solo: "On Eagle's Wing" Soloist: Ronald Wittmann

Solo: "Bless This House" Soloist: William Schlageter

Anthem: "We Are The Church"
Soloists: Ashlee Appoloney and Mary Dickerson

10:30 A.M. Call to Worship

Choir Anthem "As We Come Together"Pethel
Announcements
Rite of Christian Fellowship

- * The Entrance Hymn 369 "The Church's One Foundation"
- * The Brief Order for Confession Page 56
- * The Apostolic Greeting Page 57
- * The Kyrie Page 57
- * The Hymn of Praise "This Is The Feast" Page 60
- * The Prayer of the Day The Lessons Insert: Page 1

The First Reading 1 Kings 8:22-30 The Lessons Insert: Page 1
Read in German by Otto Failner

The Psalm 84:1-12 (Read Responsively) The Lessons Insert: Page 2
The Second Lesson 1 Peter 2:1-9 The Lessons Insert: Page 3

**The Lessons and Prayers
for the 125th Anniversary
of**

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Prayer of the Day

Most High God, whom the heavens cannot contain, we give you thanks for the gifts of those who have built this house of prayer to your glory; we praise you for the fellowship of those who by their use have made it holy; we pray that all who seek you here may find you and be filled with your joy and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

1 Kings 8:22-30

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. ²³He said, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ²⁴the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. ²⁵Therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, 'There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.' ²⁶Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.

²⁷"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! ²⁸Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O LORD my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; ²⁹that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. ³⁰Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive. (NRSV)

Psalm 84:1-12

How lovely is your dwelling place,
LORD of hosts!

**²My soul longs, indeed it faints
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God.**

³Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.

**⁴Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise.**

⁵Happy are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

**⁶As they go through the valley of Baca
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.**

⁷They go from strength to strength;
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

**⁸O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob!**

⁹Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed.

**¹⁰For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.**

**I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness.**

¹¹For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
he bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does the LORD withhold
from those who walk uprightly.

**¹²O LORD of hosts,
happy is everyone who trusts in you. (NRSV)**

1 Peter 2:1-9

Saint Peter writes: Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. ²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation - ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,

a cornerstone chosen and precious;

and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected

has become the very head of the corner,"

⁸and

"A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (NRSV)

Saint John 10:22-30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one." (NRSV)

The Prayers

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

O God we give you thanks for those who founded this community of believers and for the signs of your presence in our congregation.

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

O loving Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, increase in us the spirit of faith and love, and make us worthy of our heritage. Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Eternal God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our Bishop Lee, our pastors, and our leaders; keep them in health and safety for the good of the Church and help each of us to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those without love, for the weary, the homeless, the grieving, the oppressed, the lonely, and the sick *especially*... Hold all those near death in your tender embrace and strengthen those who care for them. Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

O God, our help in ages past, knit us together in the communion of saints, and make our fellowship an example to our community, to all believers and to all nations. Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of him who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

Amen.

125TH ANNIVERSARY: The Rev. Dr. Arthur F. Haimerl, Pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio, will be our guest preacher next Sunday at our 10:30am Worship Service. Pastor Haimerl is a son of St. John's and is the son of Mrs. Marie Haimerl and brother of Linda Crowley.

THIS WEEK

Today - 3:00pm - 125th Anniversary Dinner

Mon. - 6:00pm - Fall Finger Lakes Conference at St. Paul's

Tues. - 11:00am - Camp Evaluation Meeting at Trinity Old Lutheran Church, Eggertsville

Thurs. - 10:00am - XYZ Committee Mtg.

6:30pm - AA Mtg.

7:00pm - Irondequoit Historical Society

Sun. - 9:00am - Choir Rehearsal

9:00am - Confirmation Class

10:30am - Worship Service and Church School
World Wide Communion Sunday

RUMMAGE SALE: The Annual Fall Rummage Sale will be held Tuesday, Oct. 13 from 9:00am till 5:30pm and Wednesday, Oct. 14 from 9:00am to noon. All donations will be greatly appreciated and may be brought to the church the week of October 5th or Monday the day before the sale.

REMEMBER OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS and with a card or visit. Ruth Merkel and Charles Baldo at Rochester General Hospital; Leo Distler at Park Ridge Hospital; and Ruth Freeman at Hill Haven Nursing Home, and the Rev. Robert Wolff at a hospital in the Buffalo Area. Those ill and convalescing at home include: Melitta Reik, Florence Rohrbaugh, Dorothy Heberle, (mother of Georgianna Apolant) and Frances Abberger.

COMMEMORATIVE PLATE: Orders are still being taken for the 125th Anniversary Commemorative Plate. Plates have a lovely color picture of St. John's on the front and a brief history of the church on the back. Plates are \$20.00 each and must be paid for when ordered. Bill Heeder is taking orders for the plates.

BIRTHDAY PARTY SPONSORS: Sponsors are still needed for a few tables for the Oct. 17th Birthday Party. If you would like to help out, please let Susan Burns know by Oct. 4th. Details can be found in the Social Hall. Parish Life Committee will reimburse you up to \$15.00 per table.

ATTENDANCE: 9/20 – 10:30am – 94; Church School;
Students –28; Teachers – 7

STEWARDSHIP: 9/20 – Amount needed each week to meet our
Budget obligations - \$2,475.00

Pledged and Non-pledged Contributions Rec'd - \$1,707.80

This week's deficit is - \$767.20

Hunger Appeal Loose Coin Offering - \$13.68

BIRTHDAY PARTY- You're invited to a birthday party for everyone! Tickets will be available in the social hall today and October 4 and 11 for the October 17th "EVERYONE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY." Donations are \$2.00 each. Family maximum is \$10.00. Cake and ice cream will be served at 6:30pm and Entertainment from 7:15 to 8:00pm featuring "The Genesee Story Tellers". See the poster in the social hall for details.

* The Alleluia Verse Page 62
* The Holy Gospel The Lessons Insert Page 3

Hymn 229 "A Mighty Fortress Is our God"

Sermon The Rev. Dr. Lee Miller

* The Nicene Creed Page 64
* The Prayer The Lessons Insert Page 4

The Sharing of the Peace

The Offering

Anthem "Build On a Rock" ...Martin

* The Offertory "Let The Vinyards" Page 60

The Communion Hymn 230 "Lord Keep Us Steadfast"

* The Great Thanksgiving Page 68

* The Eucharistic Prayer Page 69

* The Lord's Prayer Page 71

* The Lamb of God Page 72

Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

Anthem: "Communion Song" Price/Besig

* The Post Communion Page 72

* The Benediction Page 74

* The Closing Hymn 377 "Lift High The Cross"

* The Closing Prayer (See inside back cover of Hymnal)

* The Organ Postlude: Variations on "Nun Danket Alle Gott"
(Now Thank We All Our God)

+++

Serving today are:

Lector: Otto Failner

Acolytes: Steven Lane and Eric Roe

Crucifer: Ashley DiBenedetto

Flutists: Meagan Cowen and Carolyn Lane

Trumpeter: Rob Crowley

Descant during Liturgy: Ellen Robinson

Ushers: Jean Bowen, Kim Bohrer, Robert and Irene Kiesow

Communion Assistant: Otto Failner

WELCOME: We welcome you to St. John's Lutheran Church today as we celebrate the 125th Anniversary of our church with special music, guest ministers, and the sacrament of Holy Communion. We thank God for the people who founded St. John's and the whole congregation who believed and worked and prayed together to bring St. John's to this special celebration of 125 years of serving our Lord. God bless and strengthen this congregation that they may continue growing in faith for the next 125 years.

WE WELCOME into our midst this morning the Rev. Dr. Lee M. Miller, Bishop of the Upstate New York Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as our guest preacher. Also, the Rev. A Sidney Kitts, St. John's Interim Pastor Emeritus, who will assist with the Liturgy. We pray for the Lord's continuing blessing on these pastors as they lead us in worship today.

BISHOP'S FUND: The loose silent money this morning will be given to Bishop Miller for his discretionary fund.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP – Members and visitors, please take a moment as you prepare for worship to complete the yellow attendance slip inserted in your bulletin and place it in the offering plate.

COMMUNION is being celebrated this morning. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Lord's Supper. All children who have not received first communion instruction are welcome to the table to receive a blessing. White grape juice is available for those who would prefer it to wine.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are presented today to the Glory of God in loving memory of Mother and Father, Marie and Anton Muckstadt by Paul and Eleanor; in memory of Loved Ones by Edward Dreier; in loving memory of Grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Leverenz by Gladys Sahs; and in loving memory of Mother, Clara Wilson by Jack and Barbara Wilson. The flower spray on the back altar is in Honor of St. John's 125th Anniversary by the members of St. John's Choir.

125-year-old church is proud of its history

BY STAFF WRITER

JILAINE BURLEY

When Vera Albrecht Sharp's grandparents emigrated from Germany, they attended St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, which at the time was on the corner of Joseph Avenue and Buchan Park in Rochester.

The German church was formed in 1873 by 69 congregation members who found they were consistently late for Sunday services at the Zion Lutheran on Grove and Stillson streets because they got stuck at the train tracks on Central Avenue. They decided to build their own church, on their side of the tracks.

This year, St. John's is celebrating its 125th anniversary. And the Albrechts' granddaughter — and other descendants — are still members of the congregation.

"All my children are members of the church," Sharp said proudly. "I've had eight grandchildren baptized here, and two great-grandchildren," the Greece resident added. A third great-grandchild is scheduled to be baptized on Sunday.

Evelyn Dreier Taillie, of Irondequoit, is another life member of St. John's. Her brother, Edward Dreier, was a member of the building committee in the early 1950s that brought the church to its current location at 800 E. Ridge Road.

In this age of increasing mobility, life members are getting harder to come by. St. John's boasts several families who have earned that distinction.

Also unique to the church is the geographical makeup of its congregation. Members come from as far west as Medina, Orleans County, and as far east as Macedon, Wayne County, to meet at the Irondequoit location.

Doris Stein Gruver of Irondequoit represents the third generation of her family to attend St. John's.

"The children and grandchildren continue to live where the families' farms are," she explained. And they continue to drive in to St. John's. "We have kept so many of our original members. And young families keep coming back with more young families." The



REED HOFFMANN staff photographer

Remembering the past This 1913 baptismal font is one of the artifacts that help pastor Dale Dickerson and longtime church members like Evelyn Dreier Taillie and Vera Albrecht Sharp recall the storied history of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, now located on East Ridge Road in Irondequoit.

church has 389 confirmed members.

The congregation of St. John's is proud of its history. The church was the focal point of the city's close-knit German community, with services in German. The last German service was celebrated in January 1958.

And church members also are proud of the pieces of that history that they were able to bring from the Joseph Avenue building.

One of those artifacts is the lectern used by the Rev. Dale L. Dickerson, who has been pastor since November. The impressive bronze-and-marble sculpture was found in 1908, on display as a work of art at the 1908 World's Fair in San Francisco.

The Rev. Dickerson moved to Irondequoit from Pennsylvania

with his wife, Vicki, and their two children, Eric, 13, and Mary, 6. He said he was struck by the kindness of the church's members, who have had just six pastors in the past 111 years.

"I was expecting snow here," he joked, "but other than that, the biggest adjustment was trying to find my way around in the community. The people here have been very friendly and warm."

In keeping with the family atmosphere, the church opens its doors to numerous community groups. Last week, members of XYZ, a senior group whose acronym stands for Extra Years of Zest, were there socializing, playing bingo, and enjoying entertainment by the Parma Steppers.

The church is also welcoming the community to the celebration.

Come celebrate

What: Wittenberg University Choir in concert at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. The group of 60 students is considered one of the finest American college and university choirs. The concert is being presented as part of the church's 125th anniversary celebration.

Where: St. John's Evangelical Church, 800 E. Ridge Road, Irondequoit.

When: 7:30 p.m. tomorrow.

Admission: Free, but donations will be accepted. For information call the church at 266-2240.

Several events are planned, including a performance tomorrow by the Wittenberg University Choir. □

Railroad schedule brought church to town

In 1873, a group of 69 men and women from the German congregation of Zion Lutheran Church at Grove and Stillson streets came to a difficult decision. They decided to break from the "mother church" and from a "mission church" called Deutche Evangelische St. Johannis Gemeinde. It was a bold move because the country was in one of the periodic depressions that characterized the volatile national business cycle in the last half of the 19th century.

Irondequoit Memories

BY PATRICIA WAYNE



The splinter group had several motives for the move. One was practical. Most of them were farmers and laborers who lived north of the New York Central Railroad tracks, and almost every Sunday the trains shuttled back and forth over the crossing, making it impossible for them to get to church on time.

Their complaints were to no avail. The officials of the railroad said it was impossible to change their schedule, and the church leaders who were not part of the protesting group told the members that progress could not be impeded. The members felt that this was just an example of the indifference of the church officials who did not have to deal with the problem.

The farmers and laborers decided, wrongly or rightly, that their lower economic status left them without power in the congregation. With all these factors in mind, these pioneers selected a site at Buchan Park and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This is a local artist's rendering of how St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church looks today.

St. Joseph Street (now Joseph Avenue). Eventually, they were able to build a magnificent brick church. The bells, steeples, and clock were added after 1891.

In 1949, the congregation, now St. John's Evangelical Lutheran, purchased five acres of land on East Ridge Road near Hudson Avenue. The present building was begun in 1954.

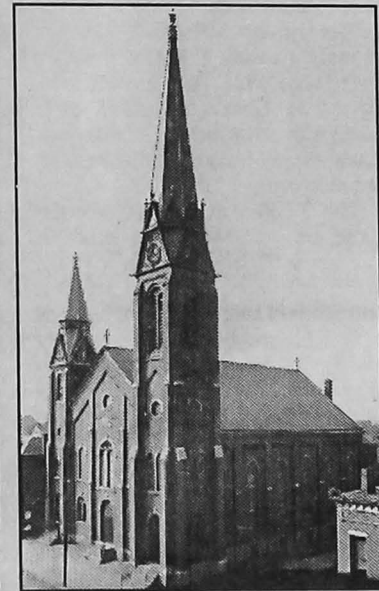
The last services in the old church were held Nov. 27, 1955. The building was then sold to Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, which still holds services there.

Some mementoes of the old church were brought to the new building, including the baptismal font.

St. John's is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year. Our best wishes to the congregation, to the

Rev. Dale Dickerson, pastor, and to the Rev. A.S. Kitts, pastor emeritus. Our thanks to Karen Miller for the picture and the historical information.

Patricia Wayne is Irondequoit town historian.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The first St. John's congregation built this church at the north end of the city before moving to Irondequoit in the mid-1950s. The structure still stands and is today home to Mount Olivet Baptist Church.

Correction

In the "Irondequoit Memories" column that appeared in our March 19 edition, a church that had originally been built by the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran congregation was incorrectly identified. Today, the stately structure is home to Mount Vernon Baptist Church.

Though Messenger-Wolfe Newspapers strive to be accurate, unfortunately errors do occur. We apologize, and urge readers to notify our newsroom at 924-4040 when they see incorrect information in this newspaper.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

**125TH ANNIVERSARY
CONCERT**

PRESENTING

**THE ROCHESTER SAENGER
CHOR**

William M. Folger, director
Betty J. Folger, Piano

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1998

7:00 P.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

I

GERMAN FOLK SONGS

Deutscher Sngergru

Ernst Scholing

Greetings! With bright ringing, Hail with German
word and song!

Froher Sngermarsch

Jakob Christ

Singers, let us take turns with our wine and be
merry! Hei!

When in the Spring, the Lark sings a sweet song and
the Blackbird, she sings with an ecstatic trill,
when pleasures awaken in the breast, and the heart
is filled with sound, then the singer too calls out
with jubilation!

In cheerful song and carefree singing,
And everyday, even when gray, we too laugh
(as if) the sky is still blue.

Love and wine resound with song! How is it that
life is never dreary when song alone is
satisfactory.

To your Friends!

Those who have ears,
listen to and let the song inspire you!
Actually, the truth is, that the wicked
brother, has no song. God gives us the
soul, and also a golden throat through
which the song you produce shines in
splendor.

Year after year, the folks are forever deeply rooted
in song, this is something directed by the heart.
Yes:

Die Nachtigall

Felix Mendelssohn

The Nightingale, she went away, the Springtime lured
her back once again, What new songs has she learned
away? She sang the same old love songs.

Abendfriee am Rhein

Mathieu Neumann

Op. 94 No. 1

Once, where in the green hills the sun stands still,
since for her (Rhein), the sun sets. Still once more
you are saluted, king over all the Earth's streams,
cool and deep, is the proud Rhein, Her existence
breaths through, from her golden beams!

And so we too raise our green goblets high, once
grapes given with the blessings of the noble Rhein;
You see the floodwaters, painted green and gold, so
now in our cup, your holy fire, fire roar!

And awake, we pray from deep in our soul, before
the still night, and afterward rest in the sound
from a song for you.

May peace hover around your (river) bed, Father,
our Father Rhein, Listen! the heavens pray with us,
listen! Distant bells ring out a tune!

II

SACRED SONGS

Gloria in Excelsis

W. A. Mozart*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people
on Earth. We worship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glory. Lord God, heavenly
King, Almighty God and Father. Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father. Lord God, Lamb of God.

I Believe

Arr. Stan Beard & Barry Tucker

(Quodlibet with the Bach-Gounod *Ave Maria*)

The Rochester Saenger Chor

William M. Folger, director

Betty J. Folger, piano

Sopranos

Mary Margaret Carney
Shirley Carroll
Erna Emmighausen
Kunyoung Kim
Karen McDade
Beverly Otto
Ursula Paschedag
Martha Roedel
Maria Smuk

Altos

Marion Avery
Jeanette Blum
Marga Fisher
Ann Graf
Erika Hofmann
Josephine Indivino
LaRae Plain
Elizabeth Lauva
Anne Schlaffer
Helga Sparman

Tenors

Donald Crescent
Werner Eberhardt
Joe Reinschmidt

Basses

Ed Blum
Robert Ecker
Bernhard Ruf
Dave Warnick

Rejoice



THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

800 Ridge Road East Rochester NY 14621

The Rev. Dale L. Dickerson, Pastor

The Rev. A.S. Kitts, I Pastor Emeritus

Mrs. Sandra Failner, Organist and Director of Music

August 23, 1998

9:00A.M

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

+ + +

Prelude

Announcements

Rite of Christian Fellowship

- * The Entrance Hymn 482 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" Page 56
- * The Brief Order for Confession Page 57
- * The Apostolic Greeting Page 57
- * The Kyrie Page 57
- * The Hymn of Praise Page 58
- * The Prayer of the Day Celebrate, Page 1

The First Reading Isaiah 58:9b-14 Celebrate, Page 1

Hymn 503 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

The Psalm 103 (Read Responsively) Celebrate, Page 2

The Second Reading Hebrews 12:28-29 Celebrate, Page 2

* The Alleluia Verse Page 62

* The Holy Gospel Luke 13:10-17 Celebrate, Page 3

Hymn 296 "Just as I Am, Without One Plea"

Sermon The Rev. Robert C. Wolff

* The Apostles' Creed Page 65

The Offering

Solo "The Gift of Love" Soloist: Rachel Robinson

* The Offertory Page 75

* The Prayers Celebrate, Page 4

* The Lord's Prayer Page 76

* The Benediction Page 76

*The Recessional Hymn 320 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

August 23, 1998

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST [PR. 16]



Celebrate

In today's gospel reading, Jesus criticizes religious people who do not see ethical implications of their beliefs and worship. The first reading offers a pattern of action that honors God's desire for all human beings. Set next to each other, these readings ask the church to think deeply about the credibility of its mission.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all creation, you reach out to call people of all nations to your kingdom. As you gather disciples from near and far, count us also among those who boldly confess your Son Jesus Christ as Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:9b-14

The Lord promises those who have returned from exile that where there is justice and mercy the ruins will be rebuilt and light will rise in the darkness.

<p>If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;</p>	<p>you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. ¹³If you refrain from trampling the sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs; ¹⁴then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.</p>
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PSALM

Psalm 103:1-8; antiphon Ps. 103:4



The LORD crowns you with mer-cy and lov-ing-kind-ness.

¹Bless the LORD, Ó my soul,*
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

²Bless the LORD, Ó my soul,*
and forget not áll his benefits.

³He forgives áll your sins*
and heals áll your infirmities;

⁴he redeems your life fróm the grave*
and crowns you with mercy and lovingkindness; R

⁵he satisfies you wíth good things,*
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶The LORD exécutés righteousness*
and judgment for áll who áre oppressed.

⁷He made his ways knówn to Moses*
and his works to the childrén of Israel.

⁸The LORD is full of compassíon and mercy,*
slow to anger and óf great kindness. R

SECOND READING

Hebrews 12:18-29

The writer to the Hebrews presents a striking vision of the eternal dwelling place and the one who welcomes the righteous. There is no fear, only forgiveness through Christ's blood.

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰(For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.") ²¹Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") ²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the liv-

ing God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth,

continued

Second Reading, continued

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST [PR. 16]

how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." ²⁷This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shak-

en—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; ²⁹for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

GOSPEL

Luke 13:10-17

After angering the religious leaders by healing a woman on the sabbath, Jesus unmasks their hypocrisy by comparing their practice of releasing livestock on the sabbath to his release of the crippled woman.

Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. ¹¹"And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹²When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." ¹³When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which

work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." ¹⁵But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? ¹⁶And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" ¹⁷When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST [PR. 16]

THE PRAYERS

Ⓟ Presiding Minister Ⓐ Assisting Minister Congregation

Ⓐ Let us offer our prayers to God who is the source of life and the giver of every good gift.

A brief silence.

God our healer, look on us with mercy and come to our aid. Where there is weakness in your church, bring strength. Where there is division, bless us with unity. Where there is vengeance, transform it with the power of your good and merciful gospel. Gracious God,

hear our prayer.

Strengthen us to be advocates for those who are ignored or abandoned in our society: the hungry and the sick, the homeless and the immigrant, the abused and the imprisoned. Gracious God,

hear our prayer.

Come with your rule of justice and liberate those who are oppressed. Establish your reign of peace where people know only violence and war. Gracious God,

hear our prayer.

Heal the infirmities of all who call to you (*especially . . .*). Restore those who are weak in mind or body and

raise up those who bear heavy burdens. Gracious God,

hear our prayer.

Watch over those who travel on vacation and protect those who are moving to new homes. In your mercy, guide our children as they return to school and give them hearts and minds eager to learn your holy wisdom. Gracious God,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Give us faith to follow Christ through death, trusting that you will redeem our lives from the grave. Comfort those who mourn with your mercy and lovingkindness (*especially . . .*). On the last day, welcome us into the heavenly Jerusalem, to the festal gathering of the saints and the supper of the Lamb. Gracious God,

hear our prayer.

Ⓟ Gracious God, we call out to you in the power of the Spirit, confident that you hear the prayers we make in the name of Jesus who is Lord forever and ever.

Amen

FOR THIS WEEK

Monday St. Bartholomew, Apostle (Almighty and everlasting God, who gave to your apostle Bartholomew grace truly to believe and to preach your Word: Grant that your Church may love what he believed and preach what he taught; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen) John 1:1-18. **Tuesday** John 1:19-28. **Wednesday** John 1:29-42. **Thursday** John 1:43-51. **Friday** (Commemoration of Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, 430) John 2:1-12. **Saturday** John 2:13-25. **Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost** Proverbs 25:6-7 or Sirach 10:12-18; Psalm 112; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14.

CELEBRATE August 23, 1998

Volume 29, Number 3

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125TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE PLATE: Today and continuing during the summer months, orders will be taken for the commemorative china plate with a lovely color picture of St. John's on the front and a brief history of St. John's on the back. Plates are \$20.00 and must be paid for at the time of ordering. See the display in the social hall.

CHURCH PICNIC: The Annual Church Picnic will be held at Church on Sunday, Sept. 13th following the Worship hour. All you need to bring is a dish to share (and a lawn chair if you like). Details are in the Social Hall along with a sign up sheet. There will be games for the kids so be sure to sign them up and indicate their ages.

BIRTHDAY PARTY: We still need sponsors for some of the tables for the Oct. 17th Birthday Party. If you would like to help out, please let Susan Burns know by Oct. 4th. Details can be found in the Social Hall. Parish Life Committee will reimburse you up to \$15.00 per table.

HYMN SING: Next Sunday, Aug. 30, please come to church fifteen (15) minutes early at 9:15am and join in the second "Hymn Sing" you've been waiting for. We will be singing more of the "favorite hymns" you recently voted for. Also some of the hymns you requested are being sung during Worship.

125TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER: Tickets are available starting today for the 125th Anniversary Dinner at Lake Shore Country Club, September 27th at 3:00pm. See Bill Heeder for tickets.

THIS WEEK

Mon. - 6:45pm - AA Mtg.
Thur. - 6:30pm - AA Mtg.
Sat. - 9:15am - Choir Rehearsal
Sun. - 9:15am - Hymn Sing
9:30am - Worship Service

Nursery care for children under 6yrs of age

**COMING EVENTS FOR
THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY
OF
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Sunday, September 27

**10:00:AM - Special Music
10:30 AM - Worship Service**

**Bishop Lee M. Miller
Upstate New York Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**Anniversary Dinner at Lakeshore Country Club
Dinner and Entertainment - 3:00 PM**

Sunday, October 4 -- 10:30 AM

**The Rev. Dr. Arthur F. Haimerl
Ascension Lutheran Church**

*The Closing Prayer (See inside back cover of Hymnal)

*The Postlude

*Congregation Stands

Lector: Jim Meyer

Acolyte: Eric Roe

Ushers: Evelyn Ritz, Ellen Robinson, Barbara and Jack Wilson

Nursery: Thomas Brayer

WELCOME to St. John's Lutheran Church on this Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost. God wants us to honor all human beings. He will strengthen us thru our worship on the sabbath so we can live a life where there is justice and mercy and forgiveness.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP -- Members and visitors, please take a moment as you prepare for worship to complete the yellow attendance slip inserted in your bulletin and place it in the offering plate. Your help and cooperation in regularly completing this brief form will be much appreciated and will be of great help to your pastor. Thank you!

WE WELCOME the Rev. Robert C. Wolff as our guest preacher this morning. Pastor Wolff is a son of St. John's and is now serving as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Dunkirk.

WE INVITE you to a continental breakfast in the Social Hall immediately following worship today so that you may have the opportunity to greet Pastor Wolff and his wife, Loretta.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are presented today to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mother, Alma Wittmann by Bob and Ron, and in loving memory of my wife Lois Munson by Don. The Rosebuds on the Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Helen Allen by her husband Bill, children and grandchildren, in Loving Memory of sister, Helen Allen by Mary and Bob Young, in loving memory of Mother, Gertrude Heeder by Wally, in loving memory of Grandmother, Gertrude Heeder by Bill, and in loving memory of Sharon Canaway by her Mom. Our thanks to all who placed flowers today. God Bless you for your thoughtfulness.

ATTENTION PARENTS WITH CHILDREN 3-6 AND 7-12; please pick up a "Children's Worship Bulletin" at either entrance to the church.

NEEDED: Volunteer to co-teach the 4 and 5 year olds in Sunday School. If you are interested, please speak with our Superintendent, Nancy Conklin or call her at 586-8869.

REMEMBER OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS: and with a card or visit: Evelyn Guthiel and Charles Baldo at Rochester General Hospital. Those ill and convalescing at home include: Helen Lentz, Amy Bork, Marion Conti, Joan Hoffman, Melitta Reik, Ruth Merkel, Ruth Freeman, Francis Abberger, Daisy Folmsbee (Vicki Dickerson's Grandmother in Palatine Bridge), and Corrine Lane (niece of Phyllis Walters).

ATTENDANCE: 8/16 – 9:30am – 66

STEWARDSHIP: 8/16 – Amount needed each week to meet our

Budget obligations - \$2,475.00

Pledged and Non-pledged Contributions Rec'd - \$1, 048.00

This week's deficit is \$1,427.00

Hunger Appeal Loose Coin Offering - \$15.74

AAL rejoices with you on this significant milestone in the history of your congregation and is pleased to have a small share in helping you celebrate. AAL is a fraternal benefit society which enables more than 1.7 million Lutherans to aid themselves and others through insurance and other fraternal benefits.



AID ASSOCIATION FOR LUTHERANS

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Office Copy

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Rev. E. Heydler
1873 - 1877



Rev. A. Blum
1910 - 1930



Rev. J. Muelhauser
1878 - 1884



Rev. P. Schmieder
1931 - 1944

Celebrating 125 Years



Rev. J. Reichstainer
1884 - 1887



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



Rev. W. O. Shortz
1976 - 1994



The Rev. A. S. Kitts,
Interim Pastor Emeritus
1995 - 1997



Rev. J. Nicum, D.D.
1887 - 1909



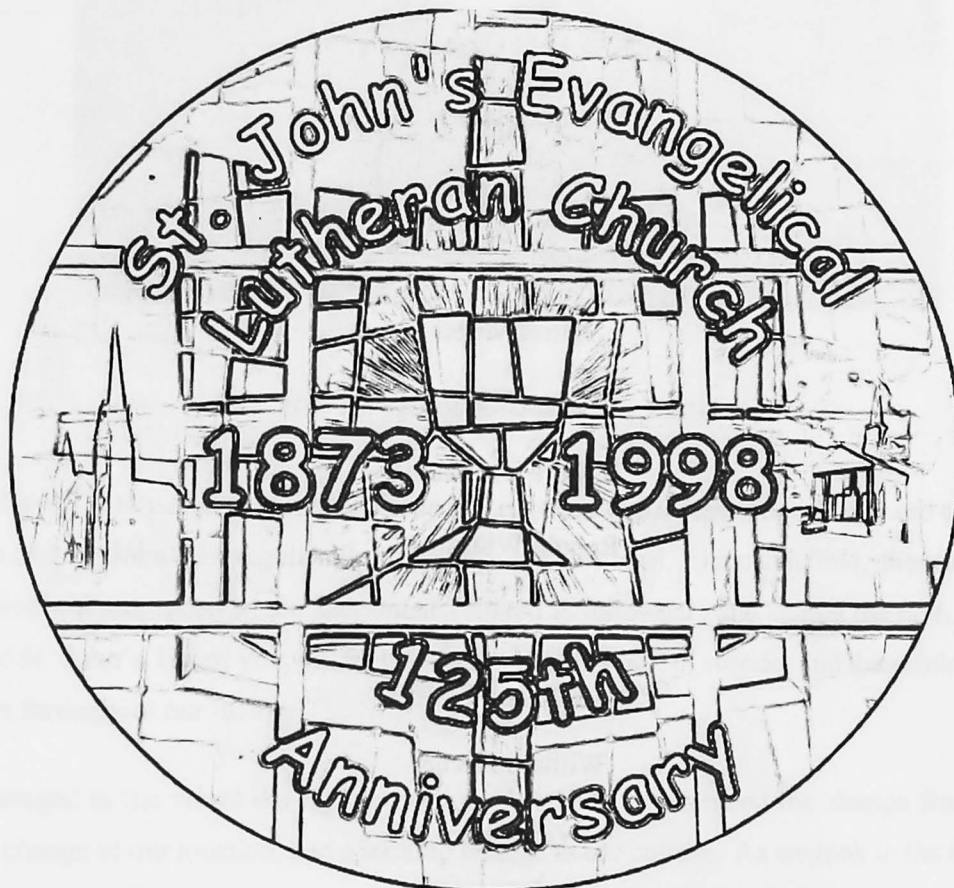
Rev. G. F. Haag
1958 - 1975



The Rev. D. L. Dickerson
1997

1873 - 1998

The 125th Anniversary



800 Ridge Road East
Rochester, NY 14621

The 125th Anniversary Committee

William Heeder, Chairperson

Georgianna Apolant

Pastor Dale Dickerson

Sandra Failner

Doris Gruver

Karen Miller

James Meyer

Vera Sharp

Robert Wittmann

Ronald Wittmann

General Editors

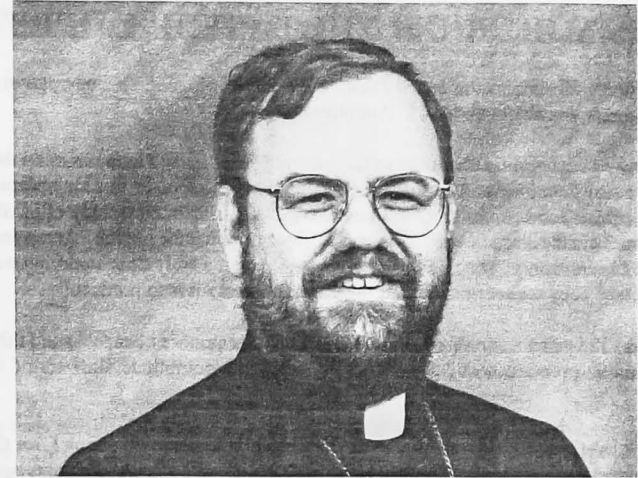
William Heeder

Vera Sharp

The Committee

Donation For Printing

Dreier Giltner Funeral Home



Rev. Dale L. Dickerson, Pastor

One Hundred and Twenty-five years ago, a group of Lutherans in Rochester heard the Lord calling them to start a church and St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church was born. Since that time, thousands of people have heard God's Word, received the Sacraments, shared in fellowship and shared the faith. As you read this history of St. John's, I hope you will feel, as I have, a deep sense of wonder and thankfulness for all the God has done throughout our history.

Much has changed in the world during our history. We have experienced the change from German to English, the change of our location, and a striking change in our culture. As we look to the future, we can rejoice in knowing that despite the many changes in our world, one thing has not changed, St. John's faithfulness to God's Word. We have not forgotten that our hope is in Jesus Christ, who is our Savior. It is this faith and hope that has and will guide us through all the changes and temptations of the world.

May God grant that our next One Hundred and Twenty-five years will be guided by His Word and may we always keep our faith and hope in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dale L. Dickerson, *Pastor*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR EMERITUS...

It is indeed a privilege for me as the *Interim Pastor Emeritus* of St. John's Congregation to share a few words as the congregation celebrates its 125th Anniversary!

One might ask how a congregation continues over so many years . . . and today is still a vibrant and active congregation! To really comprehend the answer you would have to spend some time becoming acquainted with the many dedicated and committed Christians who make up the membership of St. John's. They live the prayer they speak at the close of each and every Service in which they pledge themselves to be doers of the Word and not hearers only! They do this as empowered by the Holy Spirit working through the Word and the Sacraments! They take seriously their faith and the works it is to produce!

Indeed, over these 125 years St. John's has been blessed with a number of capable and faithful pastors . . . and with a continuing procession of generous, dedicated, and committed followers of the Lord Jesus Christ!

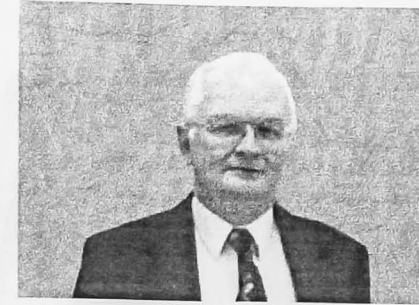
As we look back over these 125 years we are strengthened by the many blessings from the hand of our gracious God . . . and encouraged to lift high the Cross of Christ as we prepare to enter the new millennium! We ask that our God bless us that we may continue to be a blessing to others!

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. A. Sidney Kitts, *I. Pastor Emeritus*



Rev. A. Sidney Kitts, *I. Pastor Emeritus*



John Wilson, Council President 1998

We have been celebrating our 125th anniversary during 1998 with numerous special events. It is important that we from time to time reflect on our history. The past gives us our heritage and traditions. We learn from our successes and failures. The past has brought St. John's to where it is today.

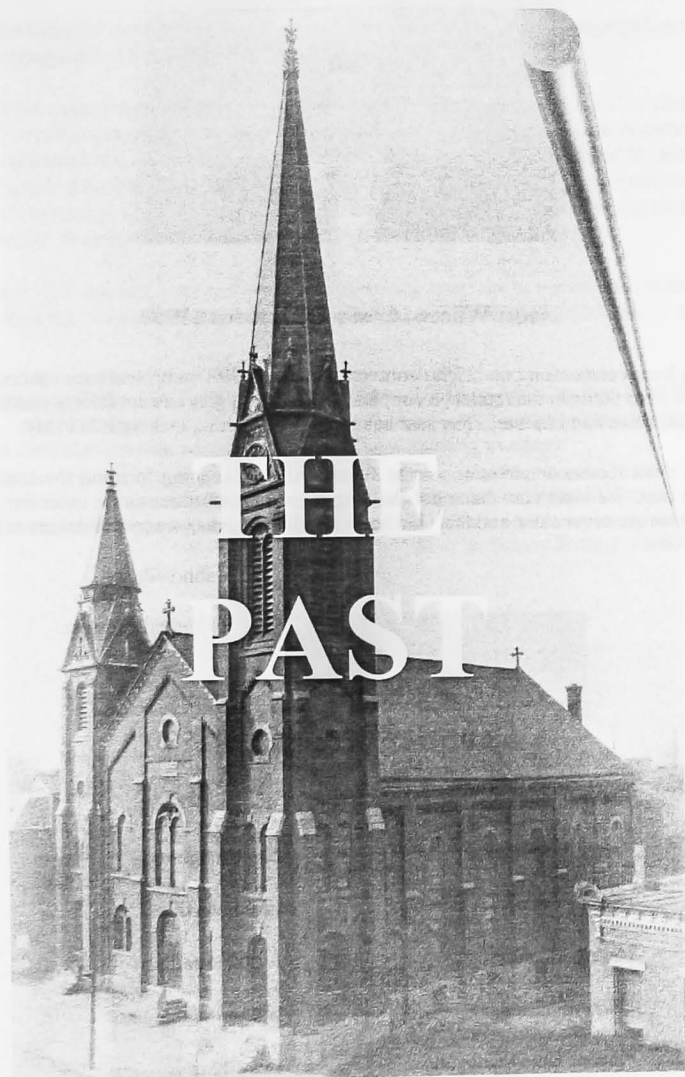
Now we must focus our attention on the future. Always keeping in mind the lessons we have learned from the past. We must now face new challenges and opportunities as we enter the 21st century, ever mindful that we are never alone and that God helps and directs us as we serve Him here at St. John's.

John Wilson,

Council President

Council Members 1998

Bruce Allen	William Heeder
Amy Appoloney	Betsy Lombardo
Susan Burns	Bradley Miller
Burton Conklin	Judith Paradiso
Harry Deissinger	William Schlageter
Pastor Dale Dickerson	Mark Sharp
Doris Gruver	John Wilson
Morris Gruver	Stephen Wohl



1873

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

To compound the nation's problems epidemics of small pox, yellow fever and cholera struck and killed 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 nation's 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 Women's 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 manufacturers 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 guttural 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 was a Jewish Veterans Post for several years, and is now Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church.

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 a group met to discuss establishing an English Lutheran Church. They named it Reformation and it was the first English-speaking Lutheran congregation in Genesee country. 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 over the 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 over speculation, over production and foreign money was withdrawn. Jobs were scarce, 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); Heilmuth 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 summer 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

After a rosy beginning, depression times came, a friction was in evidence and debts piled up. Many were out of work and could not pay their pledges. They became discouraged and in 1877 Rev. Ernest Heydler resigned and with his followers, organized and built Concordia Lutheran Church on Helena St.



1878 - 1884
Rev. J. Muehlhauser

Rev. J. Muehlhauser became the second pastor in 1878. Conditions were not too good and unbeknown to the church board and congregation, Rev. Muehlhauser joined the Missouri Lutheran Church. He was asked to resign, which he did, but again he took his followers with him and organized and built St. Matthew Lutheran Church around the corner on Morris Street. This was in 1884.

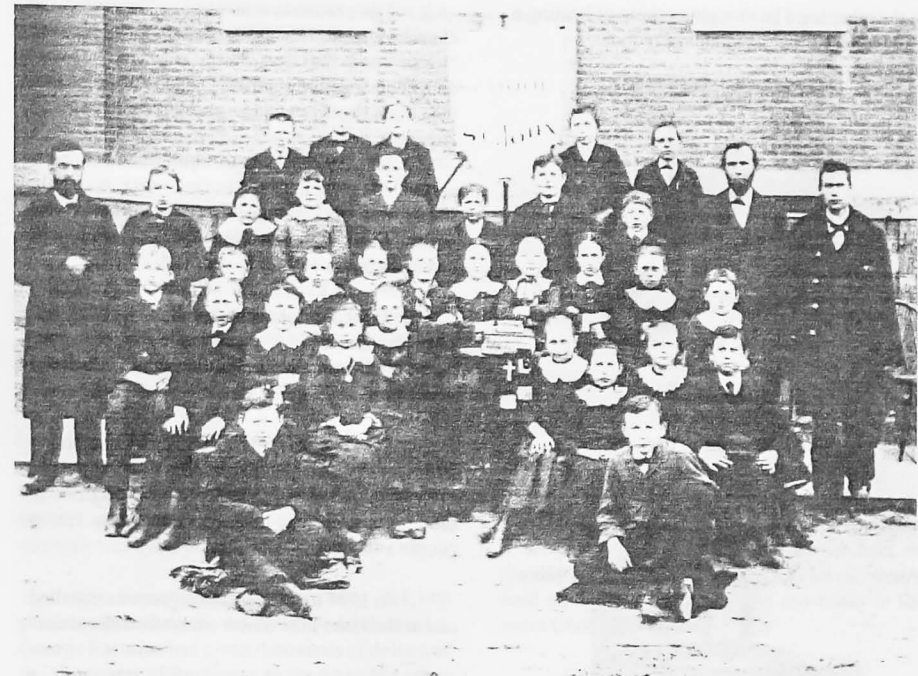
On July 1, 1884 Rev. J. Reichsteiner was installed as St. John's third pastor.



1884 - 1887
Rev. J. Reichsteiner

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 permissive! 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, and Rev. Reichsteiner became 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.

1888 - 1909 BRIGHTER DAYS

The Rev. Joseph Nicum, D.D. of Syracuse was called as the fourth pastor and installed October 16, 1887. He was a short man. He was a dynamic man. He was a dictator in his approach 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.



1887 - 1909
Dr. J. Nicum

Died November 1, 1909

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 which was discontinued in 1903.

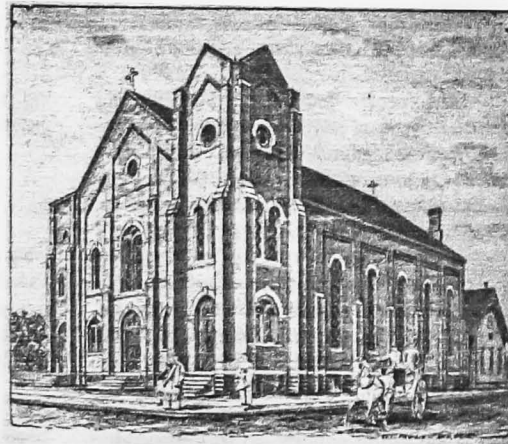
The church had been far in debt prior to Rev. Nicum. He did the impossible! In 1896 every cent of debt was paid and the church was finally debt free!

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



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 burned. 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.

November 1, 1909 was a sad day for the church when Dr. Nicum died. Impressive services were held and he was laid to rest. Burial was at Mt. Hope Cemetery. 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 quiet, reserved, soft spoken, tender. His strength 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 ethnic origin. In many homes children refused to speak the language of their 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.



1910 - 1930
Rev. A. Blum
Died July 1, 1930

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 men 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.

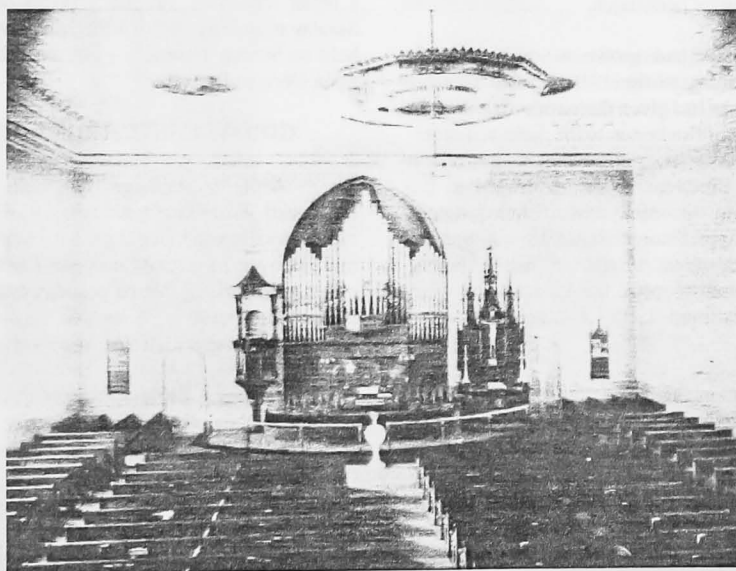
It was a difficult time for St. John's Church and the German Community. Feelings were deep. Hearts were broken as sons went away to fight their German relatives. Some ministers flamed the fires of hatred by preaching sermons about German soldiers cutting off the hands of Belgium children, playing catch with children by tossing them on bayonets, 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.

POST WAR YEARS

March 18, 1923 the church was renovated. 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 summer 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 Schmieder was installed. He was from Philadelphia, Pa. A tall, powerful man.



1931 - 1944
Rev. P. Schmieder
Died January 8, 1953

Rev. Schmieder 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. Schmieder 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 lighting 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. Pastor Schmieder 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 Schmieder 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. The Luther League published a monthly newspaper, THE LUTHERETTE, featuring news about St. John's men in service and sending copies to all of them.

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
Died May 4, 1982

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 Congregational 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!

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 Cemetery 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 Shutte, Jr., Roy Sharp, Carl Adamek, Otto Albrecht, Horst Bruns, Robert Dense, Edward H. Dreier, 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 today. As we share the fruits of their labors, may we be worthy sons and daughters of a greater St. John's."



The Brass Orchestra (Posaunenchor) of the Nineties



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

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 it's hard to believe! Clarence Eggert had done a remarkable job in helping to make the purchase.

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

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

1952

Things were rolling along. Richard Kerbs, secretary of the Adult Bible Class reported 45 members in regular attendance. The Brotherhood, Ladies Aid, 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!



Frank X. Haimerl
Died February 10, 1987

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 mortgage. 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."

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."



Charles Reisig
Died February 2, 1965

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 who worked night after night collecting money for their church.

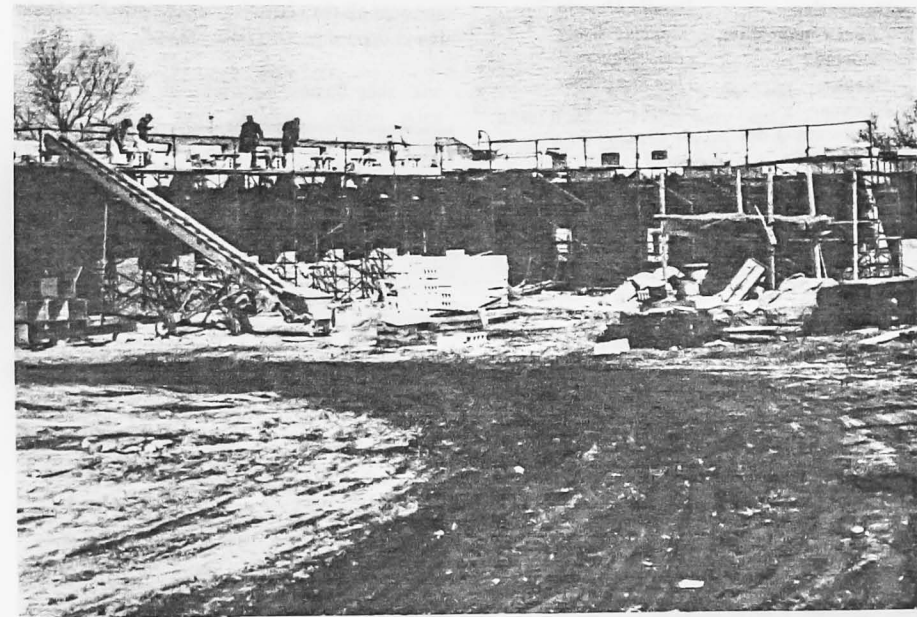
A new architect had been engaged and with his plans, Louis Sagers made a model of the proposed church. It was displayed in the Nave and was studied and commented on by members. Here was a concrete thing. Something people could touch. It helped achieve our goal.

The Building Committee had been working overtime! Plans had been studied and 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 VanAmersfort 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!



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

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"!

The Building Committee was broken down as follows:

Audio-Visual	<i>Harvey Meyer</i>
Construction	<i>William Merkel</i>
Church Furnishings	<i>Charles & Theodore Klem</i>
Decorating	<i>Donald Munson</i>
Educational Wing	<i>Charles Reisig</i>
Flooring	<i>Louis Sagers</i>
Heating	<i>Theodore Klem</i>
Kitchen	<i>Albert Kosbab</i>
Landscaping & Parking	<i>Ronald G. Barres</i>
Lighting	<i>Frank Haimert</i>
Memorials	<i>Rev. John A. W. Kirsch</i>
Organ	<i>Edward H. Dreier</i>

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."



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

THE LAST SERVICE

It was like closing the door forever on an old friend, or perhaps saying 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 lovelier as sunlight came through them. Even the old pipe organ sounded majestic at the last service. That last Sunday everything was so perfect: the music, the Scripture readings, the prayers.

The Altar Candles were put out. The Service had ended. So had 76 years, but everywhere were memories.

The narrow stairways seemed wide. The furnace rooms were spotless. Sexton Alex Kirstein would never have to feed the coal furnaces again. He would never have to scoop out, deep within their gizzards, the ashes they did not want!



Alexander Kirstein
Died July 13, 1983

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!

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 snow-less day. It was the Second Sunday in Advent. It was no surprise. 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 to accommodate the overflow crowd who would hear the Service over a loudspeaker.

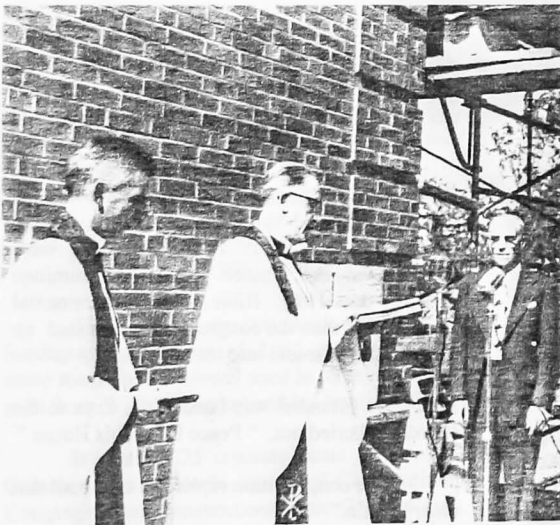
At 10 a.m. it began. Rev. Kirsch and Rev. Dr. Frederick Kneubel, President of New York and New England Synod, started the procession from the Social Hall. Following them were members of the Church Building Committee bearing the Holy Bibles, and Sacramental Vessels, and then the congregation processed 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."

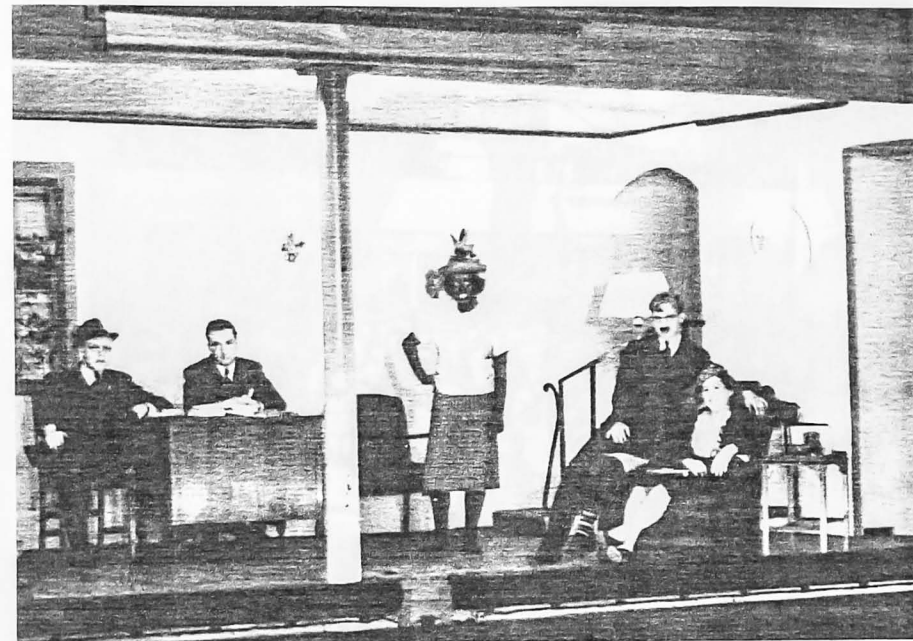
The congregation replied, "And to all that enter therein."



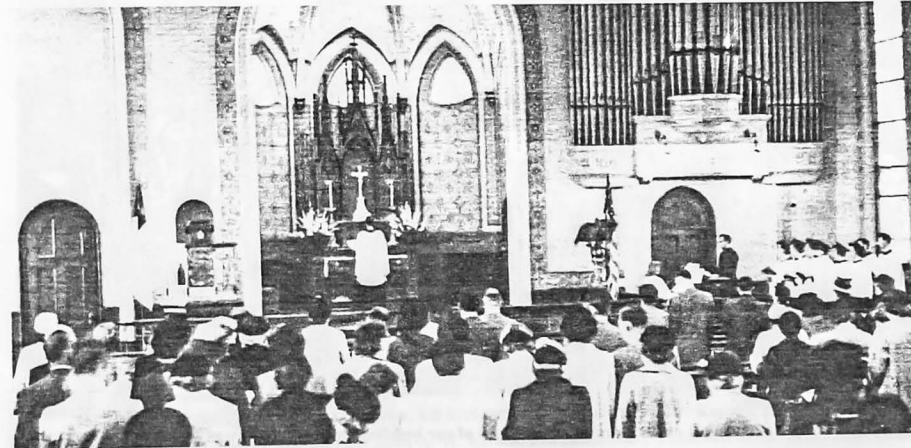
William Merkel and Edward Dreier push the corner stone into place. It was a thrilling moment !



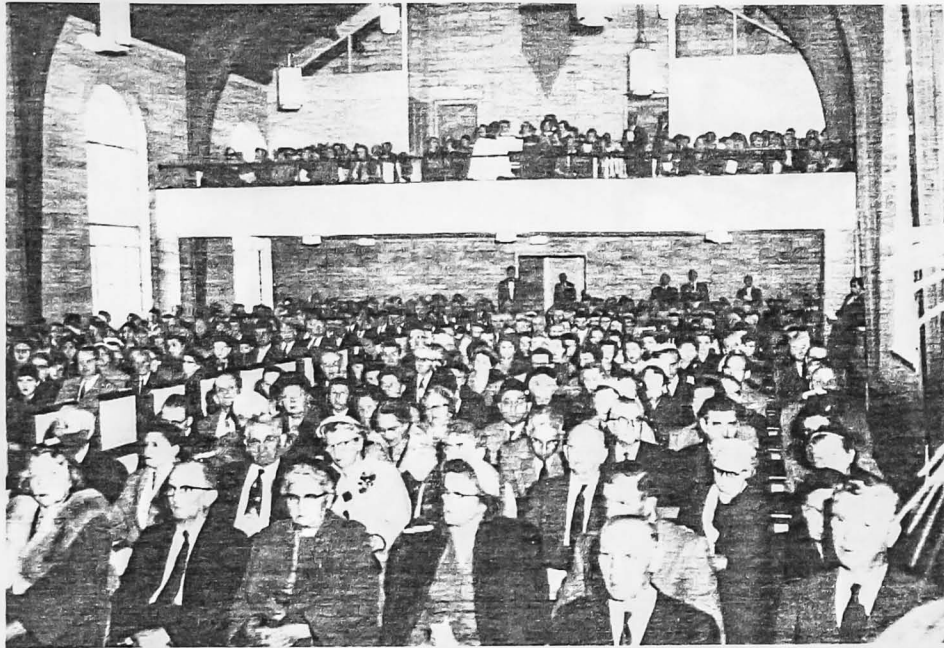
Rev. Alfred Beck, Rev. John A. W. Kirsch and Frank Haimerl at the cornerstone dedication.



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



A Sunday 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.



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: Louis Sagers, Charles Klem, William Merkel and Harvey Meyer.

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 Schlageter, 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 immediately 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 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 after deciding to eliminate the German Service.

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.



1958 -1975
Rev. George F. Haag
Died August 30, 1980

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

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 had 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 Red Hymnal with its 2 separate musical settings. There was much grumbling at this new Hymnal yet the people who grumbled then would be the same ones to grumble when it was taken away!

1959

The Tower Audio System was dedicated.

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

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.

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.

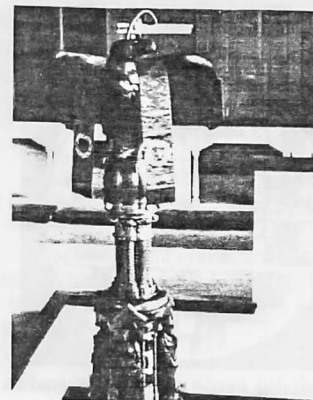
1964-1965-1966

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

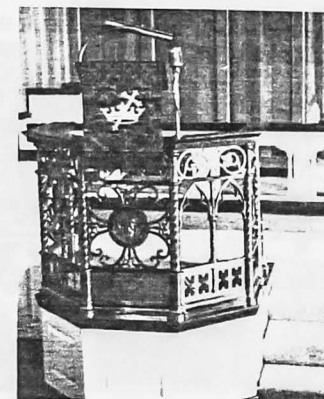
New robes were purchased for the Chapel Choir.

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 among 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."



The Lectern 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, the Apostle.



Brass pulpit, also a gift in memory of Dr. J. Nicum. The Lectern, Font and pulpit were in the old church and moved here. They are valuable Objects of art and can not be replaced.

1967

Wooden candle holders 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 Hall.

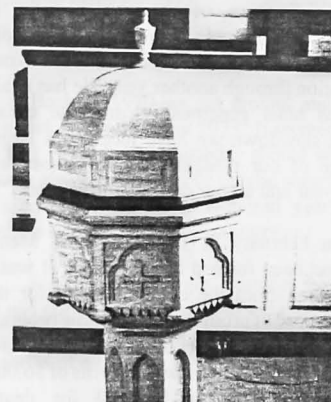
A need for more Sunday School teachers was called for by Superintendent Burton Conklin.

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



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

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

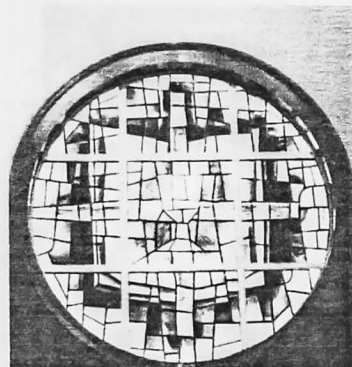
For months the congregation held services in the Social Hall while skilled craftsmen redecorated the church interior. Members would walk among scaffolding, lumber and tools each Sunday to see how the work was progressing. Like the change from spring to winter each week saw the work drawing to an end.

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.



Beautiful stained glass window symbolic of Cross, Bible and Cup given by Mrs. Frieda McAvinney in memory of her husband.

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 had been 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 they 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

Congregational Meetings were changed to 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.

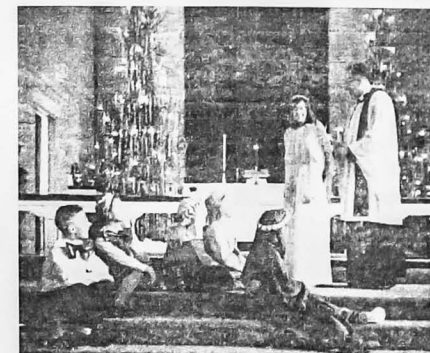
The 100th Anniversary Committee was completing plans for 1973.

1973

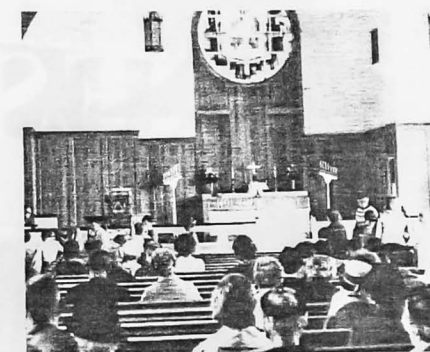
Back in 1970 we sat around and tossed ideas back and forth about 1973. It seemed a long way off! What kind of birthday should we have? Perhaps a week of events or maybe something in the spring and fall. One Hundred years for a church is a long time in this country.

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.

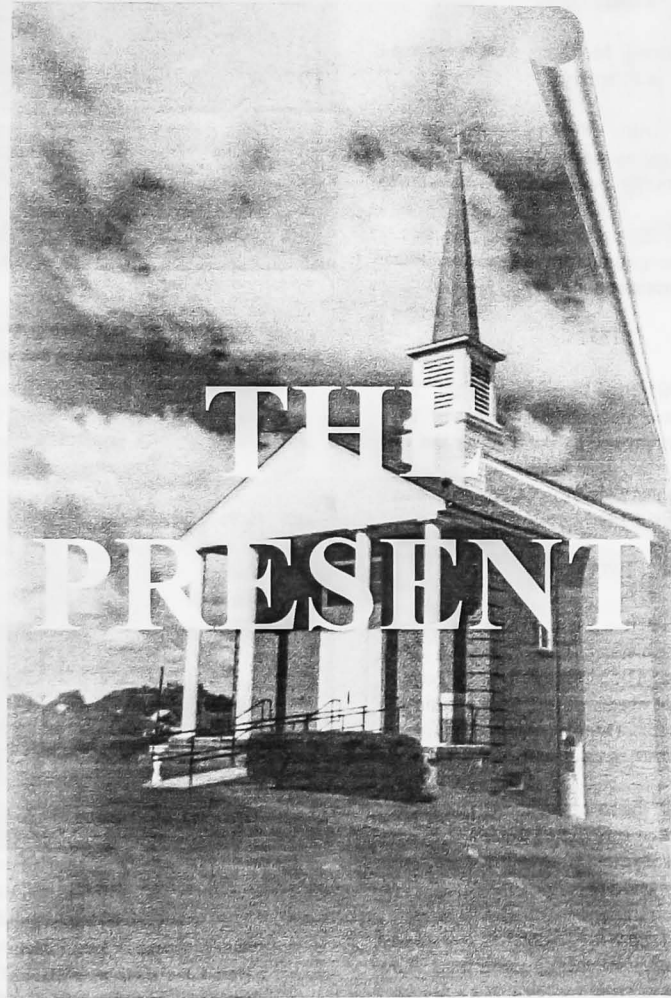
We had to have a celebration that had force, impact, meant something more than a few speakers. With this in mind we felt that a full year with a number of events would have the right thrust. Something for everyone, art shows, speakers, fun nights, prayer, worship.



A Nativity pageant during the Sunday school hour before the wooden paneling was installed.



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!



100th ANNIVERSARY

Ronald G. Barres was Chairman of the energetic and capable committee. Their efforts were well received, and they received much praise and thanks.

The special events featured throughout the year were well attended, starting with Rededication Sunday on January 7 and including Wagner College Choir Concert, Anniversary Birthday Party, Picnic, Confirmation Rally, Anniversary Banquet, and Irondequoit "clothes line" art exhibit at the Strawberry Social. Guest speakers included Dr. Edward K. Perry, President of the Upper New York State Synod; the Rev. J. D. Jackson, pastor of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church; Dr. Theodore Trost from Colgate Rochester Divinity School; Dr. Ralph Lowe from Buffalo; the Rev. Albert Horn; Dr. John A. W. Kirsch; Dr. Paul Empie; the Rev. Raymond Probst, Chaplain at St. John's Home; Dr. Walter Beck, Wagner College; and the following sons of the congregation: the Rev. John Barringer, the Rev. Arthur Haimerl, Mr. Robert Wolff, Mr. Clarence Neun, and Mr. Norman Merkel.

The outstanding 100th Anniversary Booklet was researched, written, edited and prepared for the printer by Chairman Ronald Barres, and is still treasured by many members. A small companion booklet was also published in 1973, reporting on the "Organizational Life of St. John's". The former church historian, Mr. Charles W. Kosbab left valuable information on the past. Members of the various organizations provided current data.

Photographs and news clippings from the past were displayed in the Social Hall throughout the year, and every effort was made to provide something for everyone!

An Anniversary Fund Goal of \$50,000 was promoted with the desire to give \$5,000 each to Upper New York Synod and a local charity as well as \$40,000 to complete and furnish the

education wing and social hall of St. John's. The congregation responded generously and looked forward to a bright future "on the Ridge".

1974 - 1984

Many of St. John's members were traveling more extensively and taking longer vacations especially in the south to escape the northern winters. For the first time, women became ushers at St. John's in 1974. When the worship supplement, **CELEBRATE**, was introduced that year, both men and women were asked to be readers.



Rev. Albert Horn
Visitation Pastor
Died July 22, 1982

Pastor Horn had organized a "Ye Visited Me" Committee with the help of the Social Ministry Chairman. They were responsible for visiting the Sick and Shut-ins on a regular schedule. Lutheran Church Women published a recipe book which sold for \$1.00 a copy.

Pastor George Haag and St. John's Choir were happy to participate in the 1974 installation service of the Rev. Robert C. Wolff, a son of St. John's, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Elma, NY.

In 1975, Pastor George Haag resigned and was granted sick leave by the Upper New York State Synod. The Rev. Paul M. Young was appointed Vice Pastor in 1975, with Miss Linda Herbert serving as Interim Pastor.

The United States had become involved in the unpopular civil war in Vietnam. As the communist government took control of the country, many of the natives fled their homeland and became refugees. Lutheran Immigration Services was very instrumental in finding homes in the United States and other countries.

Remembering the successful results of refugees following World War II, the Social Ministry Committee recommended helping a Vietnamese family. An apartment was made ready in the parish house and Mr. Thao Dinh Dao arrived with his son, daughter and step-son in July, 1975. Members of the church helped them adjust to life in Rochester, providing transportation, child care, etc. The children were enrolled in school, and Mr. Dao was employed by Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation. Many people were involved and were enriched by the experience.

After graduating from Irondequoit High School, the stepson Trung, relocated to California. Mr. Dao and the children moved to Greece. Daughter Ngoc and son Tung have both graduated from college, and Mr. Dao is now retired.

A Social Planning Committee was organized, and they sponsored a German Day in September of 1975. This became very popular as "St. John's Octoberfest" for several years, but was discontinued in 1979.

The call committee and church council invited the Rev. William O. Shortz and his family of Falconer, NY to meet St. John's congregation on the first weekend in November, 1975. At the special congregational meeting after the service

on November 2, it was voted to extend a call to the Rev. Shortz to become St. John's ninth pastor. He was installed on Sunday evening, January 25, 1976 at 7:00 PM.



1976-1994
Rev. William O. Shortz
Died December 13, 1994

A very confident and hopeful congregation pledged beyond the proposed Budget for 1976, and the special World Hunger Appeal raised \$1,416 during 1975.

Another addition for worship was participating in the Lay Deacon Training of the synod. At a special congregational meeting in January, 1976, Mrs. Linda Crowley and Mr. William G. Schlageter, who attended two special weekend training sessions, were called to be Liturgical Deacons at St. John's.

During 1976 communion was included in worship on a monthly basis on the first Sunday of the month as well as on the festival occasions. Pastor Shortz also started having Children's Sermons during regular worship, and initiated the practice of giving a Baptismal Candle to the parents of a child being christened.

"A CHURCH COMES HOME

Mt. Vernon Baptist reopens tomorrow
5 1/2 years after a bomb tore it apart."

The above headline appeared in the Rochester Times Union on Saturday, May 28, 1977.

It referred to St. John's former building which had been sold to Mt. Vernon Baptist Church in 1955. This was our beautiful, gracious home before moving to Irondequoit. It had been severely destroyed on Thanksgiving morning in 1971 when a bomb exploded in the boiler room. Since then vandals had smashed the windows, set fires, sprayed paint on doors and furnishings and pounded woodwork to bits. Thieves had made off with stained-glass window sections and even with carved-wood ends of pews.

The congregation continued meeting in various churches, and under the leadership of the Rev. Julius D. Jackson began pulling together and with faith and trust in God decided to rebuild. The restoration cost about \$400,000 and was raised with individual donations, contributions from churches throughout the Rochester area, pledge drives, special events and borrowing. The result was beautiful, and our old church home could again be used as a house of worship. Praise the Lord!

That's what many of St. John's members did on Sunday, May 29, 1977 when the Mt. Vernon Baptist Church was rededicated. They joined Mt. Vernon church members at the Antioch Church on Joseph Avenue and walked with them to the rebuilt church. They had a memorial service for the church founders, including those brave Lutherans who had originally built the building in 1874. When the doors were opened,

St. John's members were treated as honored guests and ushered into a special section.

It was a long service of praise and thanksgiving. Many dignitaries were present, and during the service, St. John's Lutheran Congregation was thanked for their support with the purchase of the property and their additional gift of \$1,000 to help with the rebuilding. It was a wonderful up-lifting experience and gave more credence to our faith that all things work for the good of those who trust in the Lord.

AT ST. JOHN'S

A mood of optimism was evident among the congregation. New acolyte robes were purchased. The sanitary sewer connections were made in 1977. Drop ceilings and new lighting fixtures were installed in the hallways and office areas in 1978.

A new sewing circle was formed under the leadership of Mrs. Barbara Shortz. In 1978 they became the Handi-Annies and made 200 stuffed animals for the Emergency and Pediatrics Departments at Rochester General Hospital. Through the years they have made many gifts for St. John's sick and shut-ins as well as continuing with gifts of stuffed animals to the hospital.

For many years, Marvin Berner was the loyal, dedicated Scoutmaster of the Boy Scout Troop 237, originally sponsored by St. John's Brotherhood. When he retired in 1978, the boys in the troop were encouraged to merge with the Boy Scout Troop at Resurrection Lutheran Church. Regretfully, the charter for Troop 237 was not renewed.

In 1978, Mrs. Vera Sharp completed Deacon Training. At the Congregational Meeting on February 4, 1979, the Worship and Music Committee submitted the names of three people to be called as Deacons. Mrs. Linda Crowley, Mr. William G. Schlageter, and Mrs. Vera Sharp were duly elected.

A major goal was accomplished in 1979 with the installation of a front drive-way and ramp to enable elderly and infirm people easier access to the church. This was tied in with re-surfacing the parking lot and driveways.

A new LUTHERAN BOOK OF WORSHIP (LBW), commonly known as the "Green Book", was introduced in 1978 for use in all Lutheran churches. Pastor Shortz explained the philosophy and reasoning for a new church book and hymnal during the Lenten season. On All Saints Sunday in 1979, the new LUTHERAN BOOK OF WORSHIP was dedicated to God's glory and towards the enhancement of the worship life of St. John's Church. The cost of the books was underwritten by the Undesignated Memorial Fund and through other gifts from the congregation and friends.

In 1979, a free standing altar was arranged, the credence table was relocated, and the baptismal font moved to a more functional location.

Enthusiasm was high during these years and average attendance at Sunday worship in 1979 was 145. However, the treasurer reported a \$3,700 deficit in the General Fund for the year 1979.

On Sunday, January 13, 1980, Pastor Shortz was honored with a 40th birthday party and 4th anniversary reception after morning worship. Pastor Shortz viewed the fact that more than 40% of the congregation was now over 60 years of age as a challenge for an ever-increasing ministry to the elderly and shut-ins. He stressed the need for committed people to become involved and share in the ministry of St. John's.

Beautiful new carpeting and kneeling cushions were installed in the church during the 1980 renovations through memorial gifts. White Paraments for the altar were given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Offerman.

After Pastor George Haag retired, he and his wife Betty and family continued living in Irondequoit. On August 30, 1980, Pastor Haag passed into Eternal Life. A memorial service was held at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, and he was buried at White Haven Memorial Park.

A Food Cupboard was established in northeast Rochester and members regularly brought donations to the church which were taken to the Community Food Cupboard on a monthly basis. Lutheran Church in America lay missionaries to Liberia, Linda and Richard Nelson, received financial support from St. John's for several years. Our members also collected pill bottles, education materials, and rolled bandages for shipment to the Nelsons. \$1,450 was sent to the for the World Hunger Appeal, and locally \$400 was donated to help fund a protestant chaplain at Rochester General Hospital.

Again the necessity of providing refuge to displaced persons through Lutheran Immigration Services was presented to the congregation. On May 11, 1981, Ewa Karcyzmarcyk and Ryszard Szumski arrived at the Rochester airport from Poland. Many people were involved in preparations for their arrival and new beginning in a new country and new home in the Parish House. They have married and are still living in Rochester with their two children.

During 1981 Pastor Shortz presented a short Bible Study session, and in 1982 he participated in a Word and Witness Workshop of the Lutheran Church in America. A study group was formed at St. John's. The members who participated developed their Christian fellowship while learning new interpretations of "the word".

St. John's former pastor, John Kirsch, had continued his ministry at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Oswego, N.Y. and retired from there in 1970. He and his wife Lillian moved to Pennsylvania where he became assistant pastor at

Hill Lutheran Church in Cleona after his retirement. Later they moved to a Lutheran Retirement Community in Lititz, Pa. where he died on May 4, 1982. Services were held at the Chapel of the Good Samaritan, Luther Acres. Pastor Kirsch was buried at Hill Church Lutheran Cemetery in North Annville Twp., Lebanon County, Pa.

On July 22, 1982, the congregation was saddened when the Rev. Albert Horn died unexpectedly while on a fishing trip. He had lovingly served St. John's elderly and infirm members for almost fourteen years. His memorial service was followed by a reception in St. John's Social Hall.

The Rev. Curtis B. Heydt became Pastoral Visitor in September, 1982 as well as advisor to the Fellowship of Lutheran Youth. The Rev. Heydt was waiting for a call to become a chaplain in the United States Army which he received in 1983.

During 1982 St. John's was presented with three sets of altar paraments: GREEN given in memory of Clara Pirr, RED given in honor and love of Henry and Alma Wittmann, and BLUE given in memory of Frieda Wilcox. Fair linen for the altar was also given in love and honor to Clarence Eggert.

The Social Hall was painted in 1982 and ceiling fans were installed in the sanctuary.

At the Annual Congregational Meeting in 1983, John Wilson presented a plan to increase support of the World Hunger Appeal. Church Council had approved giving all the loose change in the offering plates at worship services to the World Hunger Appeal. Council hoped that publicity to promote this "noisy offering" would double St. John's contribution in 1983. Actually, the loose offering at the end of the year was \$895.41 and with the \$716.31 received from other contributions, St. John's gave \$1,611.77 to World Hunger Appeal!

The 500th Anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther was observed in 1983 with the theme, "Because Christ has set us free, we are free indeed". Pastor Shortz preached a series of sermons on Martin Luther and his understanding of the faith and his contributions to the church.

The Sunday School gave their offerings to Hillside Children's Center Special Santa Project in 1983, starting a tradition that has become a favorite at St. John's. Susan Burns graciously accepted the responsibility for promoting and being our "Special Santa". Not only does the Hillside project receive gifts, but the community at large benefits from her careful spending of the money generously entrusted to "Special Santa" by Sunday School children, members and friends.

Elaine Quincey from Rochester replaced the Nelsons in Liberia, and St. John's continued sending packages of pill bottles, soap, eye glasses, etc. to Phoebe Hospital as well as financial support.

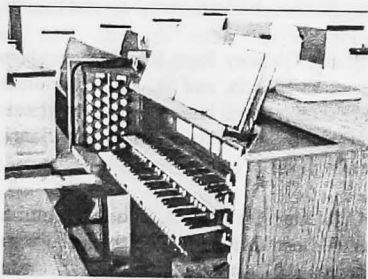
On June 9, 1983, St. John's Lutheran Church Women held a gala 50th Anniversary Celebration with a catered dinner. The women traced their lineage back to the first Women's Missionary Society organized in 1933 during Pastor Schmieder's ministry.

In 1983 the focus of the Inner Mission Society had changed and was reorganized with a new name, THE MARTIN LUTHER FOUNDATION. The churches were urged to channel benevolence funds for local charities through the MLF. St. John's continued the support previously given to the Inner Mission.

The Rev. Dr. Robert Fisher became Visitation Pastor in 1984. He had much experience and was a very capable and dynamic preacher. This was the year Pastor Shortz had extensive surgery and Pastor Fisher was most helpful in conducting the worship services and

being with the congregation while Pastor Shortz recovered.

Purchase of a new Rodgers Electronic Organ to replace the failing "Old Faithful" Baldwin was approved at the 1984 Annual Congregational Meeting with approval to have a fund drive for \$20,000. Generous pledges and donations oversubscribed this amount, and the new organ with extra speakers was installed in June. On Friday, November 2, 1984, the organ was dedicated with a delightful recital by Dr. Keith Chapman. Everyone was pleased with the work the Organ Committee accomplished with Mrs. Audrey Sass as Chairperson.



Rodgers Electronic Organ

1985 - 1994

As Pastor Shortz began his tenth anniversary year with St. John's congregation, he reflected on the many changes in both the building and make-up of the church family. Many loyal and faithful members had died, while all others had grown older. He wrote, "I have seen 'growth in faith' as folks have 'opened their lives' to the riches of God's grace." He continued, "Change is part of life, and we must learn how to handle it and cope with it in order to have a fulfilling life."

During Pastor Shortz' ministry, a series of soup suppers was instituted before the midweek Wednesday evening Lenten services. These became very popular and organizations within the church were responsible for one of the suppers

each week. Friendly competition in preparing the "best" soup was always discussed, but each week's soup was always declared the "best" by those in attendance. Free-will offerings received at the suppers paid for the ingredients as well as enriching the fund for World Hunger.

A special congregational meeting was called for the purpose of announcing the Upper New York Synod "New Horizons" capital fund drive on September 8, 1985. Improvements were needed at Vanderkamp, Lake Chataqua Lutheran Camp, and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Clarence Eggert appealed to the congregation to support this special drive. A goal of \$15,000 for "New Horizons" was unanimously adopted, and the actual amount forwarded to Synod over a two-year period was \$10,864.

In 1986 St. John's was privileged to share the services of a Lutheran Church in America Youth Staffer, Miss Rebeca Donohue, for one year. Her office was at St. John's, and she worked with our youth and the young people at St. Paul's, Pittsford; Immanuel, Webster; and Resurrection, Irondequoit.

Through the years various lay leaders in the congregation were responsible advisors to the youth group who had changed their name from Luther League to Fellowship of Lutheran Youth. The group was always ready to offer assistance in all the programs of the church. They also successfully presented several of the annual Christmas pageants.

A Capital Improvement Drive for St. John's was authorized in 1985 to "point up" the brick work on the church building and glaze the windows. The brick work was accomplished, but only a partial glazing of the windows on the west side of the sanctuary was achieved. The contractor underestimated the amount of work to be done and could not fulfill his bid.

The constituting convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was

held in 1987. The Lutheran Church in America (to which St. John's belonged) merged with The American Lutheran Church and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches.



Rev. Dr. Robert Fisher
Visitation Pastor, 1984
Died August 4, 1992

At St. John's, 1987 was called "The Year of the Boiler". When the heating system broke down in October, it was necessary to install a new boiler with all the related parts. In the meantime, worship services were held in the Social Hall without heat. Pastor Fisher as Stewardship Chairman led a very successful capital fund drive raising \$37,500 for a new heating system. However, pledges for the 1988 General Budget were short with an \$8,500 deficit.

This deficit and the wonderful recuperation of Pastor Shortz allowing him to resume his full-time pastorate, prompted the dedicated Dr. Fisher to announce his retirement as Visitation Pastor in 1988. He and his wife Dorothy had faithfully served and supported St. John's for the past three years. The good news was that he would be willing to respond in an emergency or special need and as pulpit supply. Dr. Fisher was a gifted preacher, and he was then invited to supply in many of Genesee/Finger

Lakes Conference Lutheran Churches as well as serving as Interim Pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Dansville.

The Rev. Dr. Fisher was called to the Life Triumphant on Tuesday evening, August 4, 1992 after suffering a heart attack at his home. The memorial service and reception were held at St. John's on Sunday, August 9. The Rev. David Hoecker, Dean of the Conference gave the meditation. Pastor Shortz expressed the sentiment of the congregation saying, "May Robert Fisher rest in God's good care and keeping. He has 'fought the good fight of faith.' May he now receive the Crown of Righteousness."

The Endowment Fund of St. John's had been established at a confirmation reunion in 1932 as an income bearing fund intended to further the work of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Church Council presented a revised Pre-Amble and By-Laws for the Endowment Fund to the congregation at its annual meeting in 1988. Their recommendation was unanimously approved. This would provide an Endowment Fund Committee to oversee the growing fund which now amounted to \$48,339.58. Officers of the committee with Lifetime Terms are William Schlageter, John Wilson, Bruce Allen and Judith Cowen, and the presiding president of the Church Council.

Opportunity to sell approximately 20% of our property on Ridge Road East including the Parish House presented itself in an offer from Mr. Mark Cassara. The Church Council studied the proposal and presented a recommendation to sell at a special congregational meeting on November 20, 1988. The reasons for the recommendation and suggestions for use of the proceeds were presented and discussed by the 80 people present. The recommendation was approved by a vote of 50 in favor and 30 negative votes.

At the following annual meeting in February, 1989, Attorney George Harris was invited to explain the legal papers necessary to sell

a portion of the property "extending 150 feet eastward from the west property line, and 283 feet north from Ridge Road." Motion was made and seconded at that meeting to sell the property to Mr. Mark Cassara. Seventy-five votes were cast, with 65 "yes" and 10 "no".

The Church Council recommended establishing a separate account, "The Greater St. John's Fund", with the net proceeds from the property sale. Proposed By-Laws for this fund were presented at the 1989 Annual Meeting and were adopted. At the 1990 Annual Meeting the council requested ratification of the following as Trustees of "The Greater St. John's Fund": Bruce Allen for four years, William Schlageter for three years, Paul Owen for two years, and Morris Gruver for one year. Those present voted in favor and also approved the appointment of William Schlageter as Treasurer.

As St. John's moved into the computer age, the offices and Computer Room had to be re-wired. This was accomplished in 1988. Another major replacement was installing new columns made of cast aluminum with a baked-on finish at the front of the church. In 1989 air-conditioners and new furniture were purchased for the offices from specified memorials and additional gifts.

On June 11, 1989 the congregation celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Ordination of Pastor Shortz with a special service and reception. Pastor Paul Young who had become his friend and mentor when Pastor Shortz came to St. John's, was the guest preacher. A special plaque and gift of money were presented to Pastor Shortz.

In 1990 the Wittenberg University Choir presented a very beautiful and successful concert at St. John's. The 35th anniversary of re-locating to Ridge Road East was celebrated on Sunday, December 2, 1990. The Rev. Gustave Wedemeyer, Assistant to the Bishop of Upstate

New York Synod was guest preacher. It was a joyous celebration with a special cake.

A new entrance ramp was installed from the parking lot in 1990; thanks to the ever-faithful women of the Dorcas Society who provided the funds, and to our competent workmen: Bruce Allen, Morris Gruver, Jr. and William G. Schlageter. The ramp made the Social Hall wheel-chair accessible and provided easier entrance to everyone.

In the early '90's there was a renewed sense of excitement, enthusiasm, and vitality as attendance grew in Sunday School and more young people were at worship. An early family Christmas Eve program was initiated with good attendance. An event for young adults featured a pizza supper. The Bible Study Group began meeting in the morning and gained a few people. The most significant gain was in benevolence; \$4,900 was given over the budgeted items during 1991. In 1992 St. John's became mission partners with the new ELCA congregation meeting in Canandaigua, Community of Hope, and also supported the Campus Ministry Program at Rochester Institute of Technology.

At the annual congregational meeting in February, 1991, President John Wilson presented Pastor Shortz the following proclamation issued by the Congregational Council.

WHEREAS the Reverend William O. Shortz, a duly ordained minister of the Lutheran Church accepted the call to serve as Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church on January 15, 1976 and...

WHEREAS the Reverend William O. Shortz has served the congregation of St. John's Church in a truly loving, devoted and caring manner...

WE, the Council of St. John's Lutheran Church, with our heartfelt thanks and appreciation, do hereby proclaim and establish this year, Nineteen Hundred Ninety-One as a year of celebration of the Reverend William O. Shortz' fifteenth anniversary of service to the congregation.

Those present at the meeting endorsed the council action, and plans were underway for the celebration. The highlight of the year, was the Anniversary Dinner at the Barnard Exempts' Restaurant in October. Guests at the dinner included the Rev. Gustave Wedemeyer of the Upstate NY Synod Staff who brought greetings from the Bishop and synodical friends, and Captain Richard Bayou of the Irondequoit Police Department who thanked Pastor Shortz for his service as Chaplain to the Police Department. Gift certificates and a plaque were presented to Pastor Shortz from the congregation.

For almost 25 years Mrs. Sandra Heeder Failner was the dedicated and devoted Director of Music at St. John's, when she decided it was time for a change in 1993. She felt a new person might bring new life and vitality to our worship and music program. Sandra was missed by the congregation, but we were fortunate to have a doctoral music student at the Eastman School of Music as her successor. Surgery for a wrist injury caused her to resign, and the young man who followed her resigned for personal family reasons. The choir and the congregation welcomed Sandra back as organist in 1994 after her brief retirement. Her cheerful disposition and talent are much appreciated not only for worship but as director of the choir, its variety shows and leader of music for parish activities.



Sandra Failner

The year 1994 was a very sad year for St. John's. In June our beloved Pastor Shortz announced to the council and congregation that he

had been diagnosed with cancer of the liver. He planned to have treatments and continue his ministry as best he could. Pastor Shortz and his family bravely carried on and were an inspiration to everyone. On December 13, 1994, he was called to his heavenly home. The memorial service on Saturday, December 17 at St. John's was a service of thanksgiving for his life conducted by his friends, Pastor John Beeg from Immanuel Lutheran Church, Webster, NY and Pastor Clyde McGee, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Conneaut, Ohio. More than 800 people attending the celebration of Pastor Shortz' life agreed with Pastor McGee's words, "We give thanks that Bill was able to TELL THE STORY! Above all, we give thanks to the Savior who gives Bill ... peace and eternal life."

When the furnishings of the "old" St. John's were moved to the "new" building, the crucifix that had originally hung in the chancel was stored in the attic of the Ridge Road property. It was hung in the social hall during Lenten seasons, but was showing its age. Robert and Ronald Chairpersons of the Worship and Music Committee located a conservator who restored antiques. They had the work done as a gift to St. John's. The beautifully restored crucifix was delivered in the fall of 1994. Pastor Shortz was very pleased with the restoration and suggested the crucifix should be hung in the church.



The crucifix was hung on the west wall of the sanctuary just days before Pastor Shortz' memorial service. A plaque has been placed below it dedicating the restoration to the memory of the Rev. William O. Shortz.



GEMS OF JOB
Front Cover of Book

Also as a memorial to Pastor Shortz' life, the Congregation Council asked permission of Mrs. Barbara Shortz and her family to publish a series of four sermons given by Pastor Shortz based on the Book of Job. The book entitled, **GEMS OF JOB** was distributed to members and family and friends and has become a treasured keepsake.

1995 - 1997

Dr. Lee M. Miller, Bishop of Upstate NY Synod of ELCA, recommended the Rev. A. S. Kitts as an Acting Pastor until an Intentional Interim Pastor could be called. Pastor Kitts was retired from Our Saviour Lutheran Church on Chili Avenue in Rochester. After the congregation met and heard Pastor Kitts conduct worship, the council heard many favorable comments. The council and Bishop Miller agreed and Pastor Kitts was asked to be Intentional Interim Pastor from March 1, 1995 through Easter, 1996 with the possibility of extending the time if necessary.

After several years of discussion and planning a new agency was formed combining the Martin Luther Foundation with the Rochester Mission Society of the Missouri Lutheran Church. It was hoped the LUTHERAN CHARITIES OF THE ROCHESTER REGION, INC. would be successful in reaching out into the community more effectively.

In 1995 the Martin Luther Foundation had established THE REV. WILLIAM O. SHORTZ SCHOLARSHIP FUND for Lutheran students graduating from area high schools. The first fund raising event was a Tailgate Party in St. John's Parking Lot followed by a Red Wings Ball Game at Silver Stadium. This was successful and Lutheran Charities continued to sponsor the annual event. When the new Frontier Field was opened, the Tailgate Party was moved to that location.

The book **GEMS OF JOB** had been very successful, and all the receipts from its distribution were contributed to The Rev. William O. Shortz Scholarship Fund. One of the first recipients of a scholarship from this fund was Jeffrey Pecoraro of St. John's.

At the 1995 Annual Meeting, the Church Council presented a proposal to install an elevator on the Social Hall level and extending up to the front narthex of the church and the balcony level of the sanctuary. The proposal was not approved. Back to the drawing board!

By 1995 many of the faithful members of both the Dorcas Society and the Kitchen Group had died or had moved south. The few remaining members were unable to continue the good works of the past such as organizing the rummage sales, serving refreshments or dinners, etc. It was decided to make one last gift of a vacuum cleaner from the Dorcas Society to St. John's, and turn over the balance of the treasuries of both groups to St. John's for 1995 deficit reduction.

The Church Council and Congregation were grateful for those last gifts totaling \$6,184.85, and for the dedicated support the women had always given to St. John's. All the kitchen equipment, china, pots, pans and utensils were gifts of the former Ladies Aid, Dorcas Society and Kitchen Group through the years. Members of XYZ, under the direction of Wilbur Stein, with the help and support of St. John's members have continued the spring and fall rummage sales, and Women of ELCA have continued the annual Mothers and Daughters Dinners.

FORTY YEARS ON THE RIDGE

Celebration time came again to mark forty years since the congregation re-located. Bishop Lee M. Miller of the Upstate New York Synod was invited to be guest speaker at the special morning service.



Bishop Miller and his wife Joan

The Parish Life Committee, chaired by William Heeder, arranged for fancy hors d'oeuvres and anniversary cake to be served after the service. Over 150 people gathered to worship and enjoy the goodies!

COMMUNITY AT LARGE

Through the years, St. John's has served its neighbors well. When the Health Spa was built to the east of our property in the 1960's, it was

very popular. A day-time program attracted mothers of young children. The Spa management approached St. John's with the suggestion of having a nursery to accommodate the mothers while they exercised at the Spa. The agreement was for them to pay the salary of the care-givers and St. John's would provide the space and people. Mrs. Betty Larker became the leader and was ably assisted by Mrs. Audrey Hill and Mrs. Ellen Ferge as well as some others. This was a much appreciated service for the mothers and very well used for more than 10 years.

Parents Without Partners met at St. John's for a number of years, using the social hall and kitchen. Currently St. John's is the meeting place for several community organizations: The Rose Society, The Irondequoit Historical Society, the Saenger Choir and two groups of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is great to have the building and property used for these worthwhile programs.

More recently, the Town of Irondequoit Recreation Department has used St. John's property for a youth soccer field. The Church Council approved their use in exchange for their cutting the grass. This provides a safe area for the children of our town under adult supervision in the summer.

Of course, the group using the building most often are the XYZ (Extra Years for Zest). Many senior citizens have enjoyed the fellowship of their peers through this organization started by Pastor Horn in 1969. Membership is not limited to St. John's members, but includes all people interested in being active and involved with others. Members are looking forward to celebrating their 30th Anniversary in January of 1999.

Social meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month and average over one hundred in attendance. The Planning Committee of XYZ meets on the first Thursday of each month to plan the programs, and then comes to St. John's again on the fourth Monday with other members

to set up for the Tuesday meeting. They have a special service in the church on Holy Thursday morning in Lent and also have their Thanksgiving service in the church.

For the past several years members of XYZ have organized the spring and fall rummage sales with the proceeds of the money earned given to the church treasury. This is very much appreciated, and XYZ is a very vital ministry in life at St. John's.

St. John's members have always been involved in the leadership. Mr. Wilbur Stein has been very faithful and energetic for many years as President, and Mrs. Jean Bowen is the Treasurer. Mrs. Grace DeRuyscher, Mrs. Evelyn Ritz, Mrs. Dorothy Steves and Mrs. Evelyn Taillie are members of the Planning Committee. Mrs. Vera Sharp plans and coordinates bus trips for the members and their friends. Yes, these are very active golden-agers!

The existing constitution of St. John's became out-of-date when the new Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was organized in 1987. At the 1996 Congregational Meeting, the Congregation Council recommended adoption of a new constitution prepared by Council Secretary Vera Sharp under the guidance of Pastor Kitts. The proposed constitution contained all the details of the out-dated constitution and was in accord with the constitution of the ELCA. The constitution was adopted.

The council realized the need for an elevator, and brought another proposal to the 1996 congregational meeting to construct an elevator at the rear of the building and a plan to finance it with a capital improvement fund appeal. The council had been advised that St. John's was the recipient of a charitable trust by the late Edward G. Meyer ranging in the amount of \$30,000 to \$35,000, and it was proposed the money be designated for the elevator construction fund. The proposals were approved by the congregation, and

the committee worked very quickly and diligently with the enthusiastic support of Pastor Kitts.

A special congregational meeting was held on July 14, 1996. Morris Gruver had prepared engineer's drawings of an addition to the north side of the building to house an elevator. Estimates had been made, and Mark Sharp spoke for the committee detailing the work that would be done. The motion to construct the addition and new north entrance was unanimously approved.

The Dedication of the Elevator and North Entrance was a festive occasion. Bishop Miller was guest preacher at the morning service, Sunday, May 4, 1997. A reception followed that service, and an Open House was held in the afternoon for friends and the community. Everyone was impressed with the beauty of the addition and how well it blended in with the original structure.

The new entrance was enhanced with a stained glass window above the double doors. The design and fabrication of the window were done by a talented member of the congregation, Mrs. Bronwyn Mura.



St. John's New North Entrance!

The committee members were commended for their untiring efforts in bringing this project to a successful conclusion. The professional skills of Morris Gruver and Mark Sharp saved us untold dollars, and the insight and experience of Fred Troicke resulted in some efficiencies and savings. All members of the committee worked harmoniously and their shared ideas and suggestions will serve St. John's for many years to come. A sincere word of thanks and appreciation was given to them.

ELEVATOR COMMITTEE

Mark Sharp & Bill Heeder, Co-Chairmen

Georgianna Apolant

Evelyn Taillie

Fred Troicke

John Wilson

Doris Gruver

Morris Gruver

Harry Deissinger

Under the leadership of Harry Deissinger, the Property Committee Chairperson, an ambitious group of lay persons painted the Fireside Room, the Social Hall, the Kitchen, the Nursery and various classrooms and hallways. New ceiling tiles were also installed in the kitchen and new vertical blinds hung in the Social Hall. Diane and Bruce Allen provided beautiful silk tulip plants for the window sills of the Social Hall. The rooms all look very cheerful and inviting.

A gift of new flax choir robes was given to St. John's in memory of Mrs. Ellen Ross Owens by her devoted husband Mr. Paul Owens. The gold robes were cleaned and given to the choir of

St. Bridget's, an inner-city church. Both choirs have benefitted from the generous gift.

The new choir robes were dedicated on Sunday, September 7, 1997 along with new Altar Paraments with symbols of the Lord's Supper given in loving memory of Tillie Heeder by the Heeder Family and new Altar Fair Linens given in loving memory of Sharon Canaway by her mother, Dorothy Fisher, and in loving memory of husband Roy M. Sharp, Jr. by Vera Sharp.

The Rev. Gustave Wedemeyer from the Bishop's Staff conducted a congregational review early in 1996 to help determine the essential qualifications for a new pastor.

The following members were elected to a Call Committee for a New Pastor by the Congregation Council: Bradley Miller as Chairperson, Diane Allen, Morris Gruver, Leslie Schwartz, Jack Wilson and Vera Sharp. Mrs. Schwartz moved to Webster and transferred to Immanuel Lutheran Church. She resigned from the committee, and the alternate Betsy Lombardo replaced her.

After a lengthy procedure, the fourth candidate recommended by the Bishop and Synod Staff was invited to meet with the Congregation Council in August, 1997. The Council recommended the Rev. Dale L. Dickerson, Pastor of Good Shepherd and St. John's Lutheran Churches in Mt. Pleasant, Pa. since 1992, be invited as a candidate for permanent pastor.

Arrangements were made for the Rev. Dickerson, his wife Vicki, and children Eric Roe and Mary Dickerson to meet the congregation at an Open House on Saturday, September 20 and have the Rev. Dickerson conduct the worship on the following Sunday morning with a Special Congregational Meeting after that service. President John Wilson presided and had ushers distribute ballots. There were a total of 105 ballots with 101 "Yes" and 4 "No". A motion that the call be extended as a unanimous sign of

support was ruled acceptable by the synodical representative, Mr. Elmer Hallowell. The motion was passed.

The council and congregation were grateful that Pastor and Sue Kitts were able to be with us nearly three years between permanent pastors. Much had been accomplished in those years because of Pastor Kitts' administrative skills. It was good news to hear they had transferred their church membership to St. John's, and would worship with us in the future.

On Sunday, October 26, 1997, Pastor and Sue Kitts were honored in appreciation of his service to St. John's as Intentional Interim Pastor with a special Congregational Dinner at Lakeshore Country Club. Pastor Kitts graciously accepted the unusual gifts of gourmet dining at McDonald's and exciting travel on the Erie Canal! At this time he was bonded to St. John's for his lifetime when the honorary title of Interim Pastor Emeritus was bestowed upon him.

November 2, 1997 was the scheduled first date of worship with the Rev. Dickerson. However, there was a "glitch" in the move from Pennsylvania, and Pastor Kitts was called back for one more Sunday!

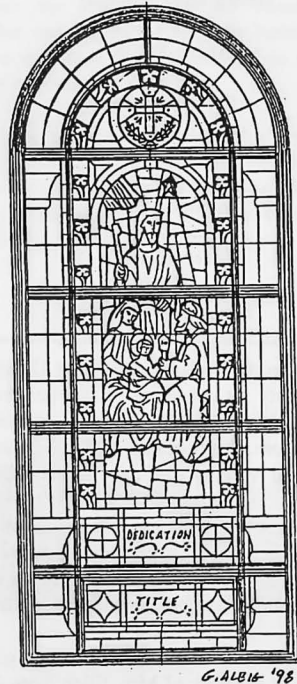
The next Sunday, November 9, was the date Pastor Dickerson conducted his first worship as St. John's Pastor. He made arrangements for his Installation Service on Sunday, November 16 at 4:00 PM. The Rev. Paul Shoop, Dean of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Conference was the Presiding Minister, the Rev. A. Sidney Kitts was the Opening Liturgist, and the Rev. Stanley Dickerson, brother of the Rev. Dale Dickerson was the Homilist. St. John's Women of the ELCA were hostesses at the Reception following the service.

THE FUTURE

A committee was organized in 1997 to start planning the celebration of the 125th year of

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Bill Heeder was appointed Chairperson. It was decided to have a variety of programs throughout the year with the high-light being a special morning worship service with the Bishop of Upstate New York Synod as guest preacher followed by a Gala Anniversary Dinner.

A PLAN TO REPLACE WINDOWS IN THE SANCTUARY was presented to the congregation at the 1998 Annual Congregational Meeting by the Church Council. A committee had been working on preliminary details of replacement windows that would accept stained glass inserts to enhance and beautify the atmosphere for worship.



A preliminary drawing of a proposed Stained Glass window.

It was announced at the meeting that a donor for two windows had "sparked" the interest in stained glass rather than just clear glass. It was suggested that insulated thermal pane windows on the exterior set into an extruded aluminum frame with a track on the inside capable of receiving a stained glass window at a later date be installed. The plan suggested was unique in that money for the installation borrowed from the Greater St. John's Fund would be re-paid when a donor for each window contributed the cost of the stained glass, aluminum frame and insulated glass.

The proposed plan was approved by the congregation. The committee was encouraged with offers from several people to install windows in memory of loved ones. It is hoped that as the windows are dedicated to God's Glory, the mission and ministry of St. John's congregation will be enhanced.

At the 1998 Annual Congregational Meeting, some hard questions were also raised. Members expressed concern about money being withdrawn from the Greater St. John's Fund to cover the yearly deficits. What will happen when that fund is depleted? The big question being, how to encourage people to stop being dependent on "the Fund" to balance the budget. The consensus was that this is the time to grow in membership and in giving. That means greater emphasis on evangelism and stewardship.

In Pastor Dickerson's first report to the congregation in February, he wrote, "There is great possibility open to each of us in the field of Evangelism. Evangelism broken down means witnessing for God through His Church." This is done by telling others how much your Church means to you and what Christ has done for your life. Also by attending worship and inviting others to come and join our Church and organizations. St. John's can grow!

As we look to the future, we have glanced at the past and learned that St. John's members used their God-given talents as they worked together enjoying each other's gifts. The congregation has been blessed with many faithful workers. May we continue walking in their footsteps witnessing for God through His Church.

Our final thought for the future is written in Ephesians 3:20-21: "Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."



**Our
Future!**

125th Anniversary Celebration Events

March 5, 1998 7:00 PM - Wittenberg University Choir Concert

May 29, 1998 7:30 PM - Saenger Chor Concert

June 23, 1998 7:15 PM - Irondequoit Concert Band

July 26, 1998 9:30 AM Worship Service - The Rev. Christopher Kraft



Baptized at St. John's

Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in

Vale, North Carolina

August 23, 1998 9:30 AM Worship Service - The Rev. Robert C. Wolff



Active Confirmed Member at St. John's

Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in

Dunkirk, N. Y.

September 27, 1998

10:00 AM Special Music Program

10:30 AM Worship Service - Bishop Lee M. Miller

Upstate New York Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

3:00 PM Anniversary Dinner at Lakeshore Country Club



The Rev. Dr. Paul E. Shoop

Dean of Genesee-Finger Lakes Conference

October 4, 1998

10:30 AM Worship Service - The Rev. Dr. Arthur F. Haimerl



Baptized & Confirmed at St. John's

Pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church in

Columbus, Ohio

December 27, 1998

10:00 AM Special Music Program

10:30 AM Last Celebration of our 125th year

St. John the Evangelist Sunday

The Rev. Dale L. Dickerson

Early Years On the Ridge.



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



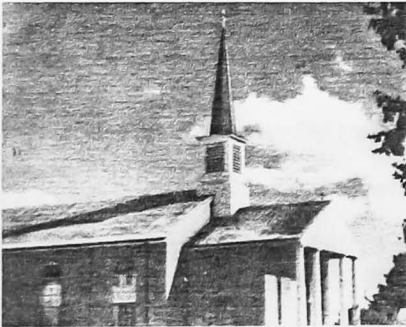
Custodians home on the property. It has been marked as a historical site by the Town of Irondequoit, which is now Decor World Plaza.



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



Construction of the Health Spa being built to the immediate east of our church, which is now the Ukrainian Credit Union.



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



The Altar. The focal point in our worship.

Senior Members of St. John's 90 years and over

Mr. Arthur Blensinger

Mr. Clifford Bozard

Mrs. Bertha Castagna

Mrs. Lydia Gecas

Mrs. Helen Gibbs

Mrs. Marie Haimerl

Mrs. Mildred Hall

Mrs. Irene Holmes

Mrs. Leona Horchler

Mrs. Mildred Kritch

Mrs. Ruth Meyer

Miss Dorothy Miller

Mr. Arthur Plotzker

Mrs. Helen Sample

Mrs. Elizabeth Schlageter

Mrs. Myrtle Smith

Mrs. Louise Steuerwald

Mrs. Gladys Street

Mrs. Matilda Yockel

Mr. Elmer Yancer

Mrs. Helen Zoske

125th Anniversary Dinner!



Head Table at Dinner:

William Heeder, William McEwen (Lutheran Brotherhood Representative.), Rev. D. Dickerson, Vicki Dickerson, Bishop Lee Miller, Judith Paradiso, Rev. P. Shoop, Sue Kitts, Rev. A. S. Kitts, John Wilson.

