

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH of Tappen, North Dakota



A CENTURY OF GOD'S GRACE, 1924-2024

100 Years of Service — To God Alone Be the Glory!

Perhaps it is almost inevitable that histories of Christian congregations often focus upon buildings and upon pastors. When we go back and look at our records, building projects and major improvements jump out at us. The comings and goings of pastors serve to divide our history into neat little segments. The called workers who have shared God’s Word with us, and the places where we have worshiped, often hold special places in our hearts.

And yet, a Christian congregation is infinitely more than the buildings where it worships, or the workers called to serve its people for a time. The Apostle Paul reminds us of this, as we hear the warm greetings he sent to another group of Christians:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We always give thanks to God for all of you as we make mention of you in our prayers, because we constantly remember before God our Father your work produced by faith, your labor produced by love, and your patient endurance produced by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dear brothers, loved by God, we know that God has chosen you, because our gospel did not come to you with mere words, but with power, with the Holy Spirit, and with deep conviction. (1 Thessalonians 1:1b–5a)

By God’s grace alone, mission work begun in Tappen, North Dakota in 1919 led to the organization of St. John’s in 1924. By God’s grace alone, for more than one hundred years, the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ has been proclaimed here. By God’s grace alone, our Lord’s gospel has not come to us not “with mere words, but with power.” Through his powerful Word and Sacraments, the Holy Spirit has created and preserved saving faith in many hearts. God’s people have been led to reach out to this community and beyond, with the saving truth of his Word.

For blessings beyond measure, we give thanks and praise to God! As our gracious Lord leads us forward from this time of celebration, may he also work in us, and in generations not yet born, the same faith and love and hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, that he gave to those Thessalonians of long ago — so that we too may joyfully work and labor, with patient endurance, carrying out his Great Commission in his harvest fields, all to his glory!



Pastor Karl DeMarce and his wife Brenda

For the LORD is good. His mercy endures forever. His faithfulness continues through all generations. (Psalm 100:5)

SOLI DEO GLORIA

*Pastor Karl A.W. DeMarce
St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tappen, North Dakota
August 2024*

Beginnings: A Mission Congregation in Tappen

Large church memberships do not come into being overnight. This is especially true if the members of such a church are interested in establishing and continuing a church that is based solidly upon the principles of the unchanging Word of God. It takes people who are genuinely concerned about the Bible to incorporate into its membership only those who have a sincere respect for the phrase: “Thus saith the Lord.”

In 1918, a Wisconsin Synod Lutheran church was unheard of in Tappen. The only Lutheran Church representing the Synodical Conference was 22 miles distant in the vicinity of Streeter, N.D. Research undertaken for this project has not disclosed the date the rural Streeter congregation was founded. However, it already appears on a 1911 plat map of Stutsman County, in a location at the northwestern corner of Streeter Township of Stutsman County, just across the Kidder County line — 22 miles southeast of Tappen and 7 miles northwest of Streeter (on today’s maps, at the junction of 49th Street SE and 48th Avenue SE).

In a paper delivered to the WELS Minnesota District convention in 1970, Rev. E.R. Gamm discussed several early congregations and preaching stations of what would become the Dakota-Montana District, and their pastors, in the first two decades of the 1900s. He reported that “Pastor Hertler [served] at Temvic, Hazelton, Streeter, and Hampden, North Dakota, followed by Pastor A. Maas, and soon by Pastor S. Baer.”

By God’s grace, people began to settle in the Tappen community who were interested in the Bible as the supreme authority for matters of this life and that which is to come. For this reason, concerned Christians didn't think it was too much of a hardship to drive a Reo automobile over grass roads to such a church near Streeter. The trip took about an hour, but hearty Christians endured the wind and weather, the storms, sleet, and snow to hear God’s message as it was told in the Bible.

Then things began to happen in Tappen. In the year 1919, the Joint Synod of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, and other states convened at Mankato, Minnesota. Pastor Philip Koehler of Iron Ridge, Wisconsin, attended this meeting. After the Synod meeting had adjourned, Pastor Koehler came to Tappen to visit his brothers — John and Erich Koehler. While visiting with them, Pastor Koehler discussed the potential for starting a mission in Tappen. The two brothers assured Pastor Koehler that they would gladly support the mission in Tappen if it were started. On his return trip home, Pastor Koehler contacted the Mission Board of the Minnesota District. This Mission Board promised to do what could be done as soon as possible.



These grave markers and this grove of trees bear witness to the location of First English Lutheran Church of Streeter, the “mother church” of St. John’s. No original records of the congregation have been found to date, and the church building no longer stands on the premises. The local history book “Streeter, N.D. Diamond Jubilee” (1980), pages 280–281, reports that the former church building was renovated after it closed, and Archie and Magdalena (Kauk) Schweke were living there as of 1980. Information compiled in “Rural and Village Cemeteries of Stutsman County, North Dakota” indicates that Mrs. Archie Schweke was still living in the former church building in 1999. The same book relates that there were 16 burials in the cemetery, as reported by Mr. Archie Schweke; but only a few are marked. Marked burials include Ernestina Clara Schweke (1896–1920) and Oscar Albert Max Schweke (1893–1918) (upper left photo); Martha Schweke (1883–1939) (upper center photo); and John Schweke (1891–1954) (lower right photo).

On the other side of 48th Ave SE, on the Kidder County side of the line, in Graf Township, lies what is called the “Lutheran Church Split Burial,” in “Cemeteries of Kidder County, North Dakota.” The wooden cross (upper right photo) marks the grave of Mr. and Mrs. Banke (died 1918). The same reference book indicates that August Behnke (1893–1918) and Minnie Behnke (1897–1918) are buried there. Research did not disclose whether these were the same people as the Mr. and Mrs. Banke named on the wooden cross.

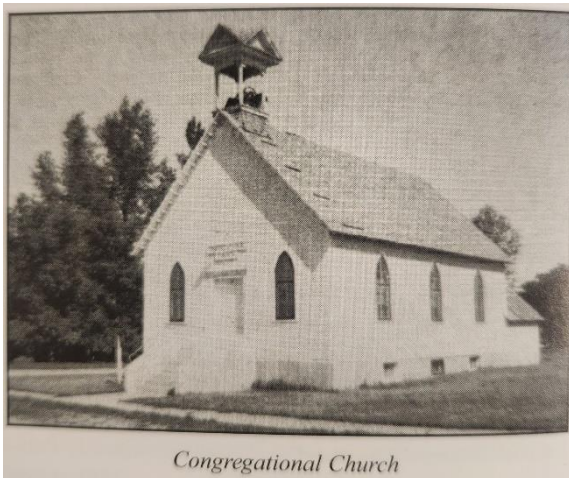
At this time also, other Lutherans had settled at Tappen. Two families from Watertown, South Dakota, who were members of St. Martin's congregation in Watertown, had purchased land here at Tappen. They were Fred and William Wallner. Mrs. A. Wallner, better known to us as Grandma Wallner, came along to keep house for her son William. Before leaving Watertown, Grandma Wallner consulted with her pastor, Pastor W. F. Sauer, President of the Dakota-Montana District, in regard to church services at Tappen. Pastor Sauer placed her request with Pastor A. W. Fuerstenau, chairman of the Dakota-Montana District Mission Board.

Pastor Fuerstenau came to Tappen in July of 1920 and, together with Pastor Samuel Baer, canvassed the Tappen vicinity and found several Lutheran families desirous of having Lutheran services in Tappen. After this canvass, Pastor Fuerstenau instructed Pastor Baer to conduct services in Tappen. Thus, Pastor Baer, who lived 7 miles northwest of Streeter and 22 miles from Tappen, added this new mission to his vast territory of mission endeavors. He was already conducting services in Hazelton and Hartford, North Dakota.

Pastor Baer served Tappen until the spring of 1921. At that time, the Mission Board decided to divide Pastor Baer's field because of the distance he had to travel. The division was Hazelton and Hartford as one mission field and Streeter and Tappen as another. Pastor Baer was transferred to Hazelton. The Streeter-Tappen mission was to have a new missionary.

In April of 1921, Pastor Carl Strassen was called to the Streeter-Tappen field. He served this field until May of 1923, when he accepted a call to McIntosh, South Dakota. As yet, the Tappen group had not officially organized into congregational status. The area was served as a preaching station.

Tappen went without a pastor from May until September, when Pastor Eugene Hinderer, a graduate of the Theological Seminary at Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, began his ministry in



Congregational Church

First Meeting Place of St. John's

this field. On September 2, 1923, Pastor F. Traub, of Bowdle, S.D., installed E. Hinderer in the Streeter congregation in the forenoon and in the afternoon at Tappen. At the installation service at Tappen, ten adults and six children were present.

Up to this time the pastor lived in the parsonage near the Streeter church. But Pastors S. Baer and C. Strassen recommended to the Mission Board that the new pastor should live in Tappen, since the greater part of the work of this mission field was at Tappen. This had been communicated to Pastor Hinderer in the

letter accompanying the call, and the decision as to the dwelling place was left to him. But as the recommendation came from the two former pastors, Rev. Hinderer decided to take their advice and so became the first Lutheran resident pastor at Tappen.

That Rev. Hinderer chose to live at Tappen, and not at Streeter, caused much bitter feelings in the congregation at Streeter, and one member was very much put out. This was Mr. D.E. Schwecke, a former pastor himself, who did not want to recognize Rev. Hinderer as his pastor, because he did not live in the parsonage at the Streeter congregation. Pastor Traub settled this matter with D.E. Schwecke before the installation services.

In January, 1924, the congregation at Tappen was organized; and the name adopted was Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Five members signed the first constitution. They were William Briese, Erich Koehler, Fred Wallner, Louis Wallner, and William Wallner. Louis Wallner was elected President of the congregation. Up to this time and until 1926, the services were conducted in the Congregational Church, as the newly organized congregation owned no buildings. But soon after the organization, it was felt that to carry out the Lord's work in a congregation and to carry out Synod's programs, it was best to have our own house of worship.

Many of the early records of St. John's have been lost. However, a "Journal" found by Pastor William Russow provides some insight into the early activity and growth of the congregation.

Date	Description	Amount
Dec 13 1920	Collection	214
July 11 1921	Collection	311
July 13	Member (1)	5.00
Oct 17	Collection	4.91
Dec 17	"	2.00
May 8 1922	"	1.65
July 3	"	2.90
Aug 2	"	3.00
July 7	"	1.55
Aug 2	"	5.00
Oct 5	Member (10)	10.00
Nov 13	Collection	4.00
Nov 27	"	1.00
Jan 16 1923	"	1.25
Apr 30	Member (6)	6.00
July 15	Collection	1.66
July 15	"	1.90
July 25	Exp on Lutheran Books	2.34
Aug 2	"	5.00
Aug 2	Exp on Lutheran Books	2.44
Aug 20	Collection	13.5
Aug 4	"	3.46
10	"	1.70
17	"	1.77
Oct 1	"	2.49
		36.78

Date	Description	Amount
Dec 7 1920	Hymnal	1.00
8	Collection	2.25
13	Hymnal	2.25
17	Collection	1.43
Nov 5	"	2.76
13	"	2.83
19	"	2.71
26	"	2.00
27	"	1.00
Dec 3	"	3.00
11	"	3.15
17	"	1.80
27	"	2.25
31	"	1.98
Jan 16 1923	for 15th Anniversary	25.00
Jan 15 1923	donation	6.00
15	"	6.00
18	"	1.83
18	Rev to Jan 1, 1923	25.00
		47.18

Financial Records of St. John's, 1920–1923

There are entries for offering collections (which likely correspond with worship services) in 1920 on December 13, 1920; in 1921, on July 11, October 17, and December 12; in 1922, on May 8, July 3, August 2, September 14, November 13, and November 27; in the first half of 1923, on January 16, April 30, and June 15. From the second half of 1923 going forward, services appear to have been held on an almost weekly basis.

Total offerings recorded from December 1920 to October 1, 1923 were \$47.18. Total expenses recorded in the same period were \$36.78. The largest expense seems to have been church rent (\$5 on July 13, 1921; \$10 on October 8, 1922; \$6 on January 16, 1923).

Order of Business.

The sessions of the congregation shall be conducted according to parliamentary usage, and the following order:

Roll Call

1. Opening with a short service.
2. Reading and approval of minutes of previous session.
3. Reception of new members.
4. Reports of officers and standing committees and action thereon.
5. Unfinished business.
6. Recommendation of the Church Council and new business.
7. Adjournment with the Lord's Prayer in unison.

	Signature of Members	Address.
	1. <i>Wm Walker</i>	Tappan N. D. ✓
<i>released</i>	2. <i>Wm. Richard</i>	Tappan N. D. ✓
	3. <i>Louis H. Wallner</i>	Tappan N. D. ✓
	4. <i>Louis Wallner</i>	Tappan N. D. ✓
<i>removed</i>	5. <i>John Smith</i>	Tappan N. Dak. ✓
<i>deceased</i>	6. <i>Conrad Linn</i>	Tappan N. Dak. ✓
<i>removed</i>	7. <i>Andrew Gou</i>	Tappan N. Dak. ✓
<i>removed</i>	8. <i>Jacob G. Lander</i>	Tappan N. Dak. ✓
<i>removed</i>	9. <i>J. L. Woodwick</i>	Tappan N. D. ✓
<i>removed</i>	10. <i>William L. Briere</i>	Tappan N. H. ✓
<i>removed</i>	11. <i>Ed Soehle</i>	Tappan N. D. ✓
<i>removed by resolution of congregation</i>	12. <i>Chas. Olsen</i>	Tappan N. D. ✓
<i>released</i>	13. <i>Norman Heiden</i>	Tappan N. Dak. ✓
<i>removed</i>	14. <i>Gust Peterson</i>	Tappan N. Dak. ✓
<i>deceased</i>	15. <i>Henry J. Kress</i>	Tappan N. Dak. ✓
<i>deceased</i>	16. <i>Jacob Strick Sr.</i>	Tappan N. Dak. ✓
	17. <i>Christ Teske</i>	Tappan N. D. ✓
	18. <i>Sethel Carter</i>	Tappan N. D. ✓
	19. <i>Andy Strick Sr.</i>	Tappan N. Dak. ✓
<i>released</i>	20. <i>Fred C. Geit</i>	Tappan N. Dak. ✓
<i>removed</i>	21. <i>Theo Heiden</i>	Tappan N. Dak. 12-1-35 ✓
	22. <i>Ben Heiden</i>	Tappan N. Dak. 12-1-35 ✓

The first page of signatures of members who signed the original church constitution

One hymnal was purchased on October 2, 1923, for \$1.60. Additional hymnals were purchased on May 19, 1924 for \$16.00, and on July 18, 1924 for \$16.95. Early gifts given to support missions are recorded on August 3, 1924 (\$42.00), and \$4.77 on January 1, 1925 (\$4.77 to the Negro Mission). On July 5, 1925, \$67.12 was given to Synod for a Mission Festival.

Payments directly from the congregation to pastors during this early period: July 25, 1923, \$2.34 to Pastor Hinderer, for books; August 22, 1923, \$5.00 to Pastor Baer; August 27, 1923, \$8.44 to Pastor Hinderer, for books; January 2, 1925, \$15.00 to Pastor Hinderer; December 1925, \$20.00 to Pastor Schultz, of Hazelton.

A list of donations given to St. John's on January 17, 1924, is accompanied by names of some of the earliest members: F. Wallner, L. Wallner, W. Wallner, G. Grelthen, E.H. Koehler, I. Stauffer, W. Briese.

Cash on hand on January 1, 1926 is noted as \$33.82.

The First Church Building and Parsonage

In a meeting of the congregation in the spring of 1926, it was decided to build the church if the Mission Board would grant the congregation a loan of \$3,000.00. In this year the Synod of the Dakota-Montana District met at Elkton, S.D. It had also been decided by the congregation to join the Synod, and Jake Stroh, Sr. was elected delegate and signed the Constitution of the District for the congregation. At this District Synod meeting the Mission Board had a meeting, and Pastor Hinderer presented the wishes of the congregation in regard of a loan from the Church Extension Fund. A loan of \$3,320.00 was granted.

After returning from this Synod meeting, St. John's members started excavating for a basement for the new church on the lots the congregation had bought on Columbia Ave. Lightning storms and rain made construction a bit difficult. Fred Wallner recalled one time during the construction, lightning struck so hard that his horses reared up and caused quite a scare. Nonetheless, the work on the new church progressed rapidly. On the 26th of July, 1926, the new church was dedicated to the Triune God. At this occasion,



THE OLD CHURCH AND PARSONAGE

Pastors S. Baer, J.P. Scherf and A.W. Blauert preached. In August of the same year, the congregation also built the parsonage. In the spring of 1927, the congregation built a garage.¹

The first church building served the needs of the congregation for many years — approximately thirty-three and one-third. The “founding fathers” must have planned for growth, when they constructed a building with seating capacity for 125.

14		15	
1926 Disbursements		1926 Receipts	
July 16 Rev. Baer, organ	20.00	June 7 Collection	284.30
27 A. Ball - building fund	9.00	14 "	235.00
78 M. Baker - organ	30.75	28 "	171.00
78 K. Baker - organ	46.27	July 6 H. Mauer	25.00
78 A. Baker - organ	45.00	10 Collection	55.00
31 Cong. Church - rent	27.00	20 "	100.00
Aug 7 K. Baker - organ	2.05	No. Adm. - building	200.00
3 K. Baker - organ	13.14	No. A. Baker - building	100.00
11 Rev. Hinderer - Cong. head	6.00	No. Collection	171.73
19 H. P. K. Baker - freight	6.09	31 Mrs. K. Baker	25.00
24 H. P. K. Baker - freight	41.50	Aug 7 Collection	45.00
26 Mrs. K. Baker - organ	245.00	10 "	325.77
Sept 9 "	30.00	16 "	400.11
20 K. Baker - organ	40.00	20 Mrs. K. Baker - loan	225.00
24 H. P. K. Baker - organ	303.88	24 Collection	607.11
27 H. P. K. Baker - organ	17.00	30 Mrs. K. Baker - loan	300.00
27 H. P. K. Baker - organ	545.00	Oct 4 Collection	333.33
30 C. Baker - organ	33.88	10 Raymond Nelson	44.75
Oct 19 H. P. K. Baker - organ	45.00	20 Collection	680.33
24 H. P. K. Baker - organ	25.00	24 Mrs. K. Baker - loan	1475.00
Nov 3 H. P. K. Baker - organ	21.00	Oct 4 Collection	287.77
	215.00	15 "	1.00
		18 "	47.25
		21 "	400.00
		24 "	360.00
		Nov 5 "	2424.97

1926 Financial Records of St. Johns, with Construction of the new church in progress

Some 1926 disbursements suggest activity around the building of the first church: \$40.00 on lots, February 5, 1926; \$5.32 on taxes, March 10, 1926; \$60.00 on lots, April 3, 1926; \$5.00 to the Secretary of State for a charter, May 25, 1926; \$9.60 for an abstract, May 26, 1926. Activity increased rapidly in the second half of 1926 with many construction-related expenses appearing (including \$20.00 for an organ and \$45.00 for an altar). Gifts and offerings in 1926 rose to \$2,613.83, and the congregation had \$114.53 on hand on January 1, 1927.

By 1927, Pastor Hinderer was receiving \$25.00/month as salary from the congregation. Stipends to organist Ardella Woodwick also appear, ranging from \$2.50 to \$4.00 per month between 1927 and 1929. Pastor Hinderer’s salary appears to have gradually been increased; for example, \$348.48 in 1930–31; \$258.24 in 1932; \$600.00 in 1934; \$556.91 in 1935 (with a note he was still owed \$43.09).

¹ The version printed above is from the oldest historical document found, which states that the information was provided by Pastor Hinderer. A slightly different version was published in the history prepared for the 50th anniversary of St. John’s: *In February, 1924, the voters met after a worship service to ask the Mission Board for a loan of \$2,000 to build a church. In the interest of saving as much money as possible, the members themselves built the church under the guidance of a non-member architect. Lightning storms and rain made construction difficult. On July 26, 1926, the new church was dedicated to the Triune God. At this occasion, Pastors S. Baer, J. P. Scherf, and A. W. Blauert preached. Another \$2,000 loan was obtained for the purpose of building a parsonage which was built the same year. In the spring of 1927, the garage was built.*

Receipts for 1928 amounted to \$1,311.55, and the congregation had \$485.37 on hand at the end of the year. From at least 1927 on, the congregation had an audit committee reviewing the books at the end of the year. An entry at the end of the 1928 disbursements reads, "Books for 1928 approved and found correct. Isaac Stauffer, Fred Geist, Louis H. Wallner."



Holy Communion Announcement, 1928

Worshippers at Lutheran church services have always felt the need for an organ to lead them in their singing. This is in keeping with our Lutheran heritage of Christian songs and singing. In the early years of the congregation such indeed was felt. In 1928 an organ was given to our congregation by a Lutheran Church in Zeeland, North Dakota. The conditions for this gift demanded that someone from Tappen pick it up. In those days such a trip wasn't quite as easy as it is today. Pastor E. Hinderer and Mr. Fred Wallner, together with a Model T, made the eventful trip.

The St. John's Ladies Aid was organized July 21, 1932, with Mrs. Eugene Hinderer as hostess. The object of the society was to foster Christian fellowship among its members, to perform works of charity, to provide for embellishment of the church and to raise money for home and foreign missions and the benefit of our own congregation. Some of the charter members were: Mrs. Eugene Hinderer, Mrs. E.H. Koehler, Mrs. J.L. Woodwick, Mrs. Perry Robinson, Mrs. John DeWitz, Mrs. L.H. Wallner, Mrs. Fred Wallner, Mrs. William Wallner, Mrs. Elmer Hopkins, Mrs. John Erickson, Mrs. George Fanta and Mrs. Oberlander.



Pastor & Mrs. Hinderer

Receipts and disbursements were somewhat lower in the Depression years of the 1930s than in the late 1920s, but the members continued to support the ministry of St. John's. Receipts in 1930-31 were \$728.32, and disbursements were \$715.89. Receipts and disbursements in 1932 were \$560.48 (a note appears that Pastor Hinderer was paid \$258.24 toward his salary, and \$161.76 was still owed). No entries appear in the ledger for 1933, but by 1934, expenses and income were balanced at \$828.48. Expenses and income in 1935 were balanced at \$870.84, with a note that \$14.00 was borrowed from a member to balance the account. Expenses and income in 1936 were balanced at \$875.80 (Pastor Hinderer's salary had been increased to \$720.00, but \$117.05 of that was still owed at the end of the year).

Entries for 1934 include names of members of the congregation who gave gifts and offerings during that year. Names on the list (as well as they can be made out) include Mrs. D. Blackmon; Godfrey Peterson; A. Gross; G. Harter; Fred Geist; C. Teske; Adam Koestler; Chas. Koestler; E. Koehler; Mrs. J.C. Kress; H.J. Kress; E. Kalmbach; Conrad Lang; Gotthilf Lang; George Maw; Ira Maw; J.L. Woodwick; August Stroh; Fred Wallner; L.H. Wallner; Wm. Wallner; J. Wieland; George Kapp; Trammer; Wm. Briese; H. Stanke; L.T. Woodwick; J. Koehler; Fred Dockter; H. Heiden, Jr.; H. Heiden, Sr.; Mrs. Appelt – Ed Briese; G. Stadel. Lists containing many of these names, and additional names, appear also for 1935 and 1936.

Pastor Hinderer accepted a call to Bristol, Wisconsin, in December of 1938. He delivered his farewell sermon in Tappen Dec. 26, 1938. During the vacancy, St. John's was served by Pastor E.H. Krueger of Mandan, and First English Lutheran of Streeter was served by Pastor Hans Schultz of Hazelton.

A Church Building Paid Off, and Then Outgrown

Pastor William P. Holzhausen came to Tappen from Sioux City, Iowa, in April, 1939. Pastor Holzhausen was installed in St. John's as the resident pastor on Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 1939, by Pastor Krueger, who likewise had charge of the installation in Streeter in the evening. The wholesale removal of members out of the Streeter parish weakened that congregation to the extent that services were discontinued there in October, 1941.

It was during Pastor Holzhausen's tenure that several arrangements were tried to develop the Sunday School. The best success was achieved when the Sunday School was conducted in the church basement while the German service was in progress upstairs. The Ladies Aid took the lead in making the basement a more congenial assembly-room for the Sunday School. With some help from the congregation, they had the basement rewired, plastered, and painted. This was done during the last part of 1941 and early 1942.

On April 30, 1940, a tree-planting bee was held, setting alternate rows of green ash and Chinese elms on the lots east of the parsonage.

After sixteen years of debt, the congregation became debt-free at the close of 1942. The length of time to get out of debt is understandable, when one thinks back to the hard times of the 1930s. The Depression didn't hurt the farmers quite as much as the drought of 1934, 1935, and 1936. In 1936, the temperature reached 120 degrees and higher. William Wallner recalled coming home from a worship service and finding 50 chickens dead because of the extreme heat. Nevertheless, God protected his own and provided the necessary means to live and support the church. St. John's was attracting new members who were willing to sacrifice to keep their church alive.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AT TAPPEN, NORTH DAKOTA

ABOUT midway between Jamestown and Bismarck and some one hundred miles north of the South Dakota border lies a struggling little village known as Tappen. The level, sandy expanse stretching out several miles in all directions from the town gives rise to the belief that we are living on the dried-up bottom of a vast lake. Settlers were attracted over fifty years ago by the glowing reports of the luscious grasslands available here. However, in the boom days of the great World War the plowshare was driven all too freely into the yielding soil, so that as a consequence much of the virgin sod was turned over to furnish an unwilling seedbed for wheat and ever more wheat. Then came the sad days of deficient moisture, withering winds, blistering heat, choking dust-storms — shattered hopes. Bewildered agriculturists reluctantly abandoned homesteads; empty, weather-pocked dwellings were snaked into towns. Brown, barren acres,

unwisely exploited, greeted the eye on every hand. Reclamation rehabilitation, re-adjustment, though a slow, bitter process, have since inaugurated a new, more promising era.

In all this turmoil and upheaval, this rise and fall of fortunes, a vigorous Lutheran congregation was making a valiant struggle for life. Its beginnings date back more than two decades when a Wisconsin pastor chose to visit two brothers. The possibility of opening a mission was earnestly and favorably discussed. About a year later a South Dakota mother accompanied her two sons to the unclaimed prairies. Before leaving her home congregation, she approached her pastor and president of his District in regard to their future spiritual well-being. Such agitation and concern had as its wholesome effect that by mid-summer of the year 1920 the mission-board chairman of the Dakota-Montana District together with a pas-

The Northwestern Lutheran

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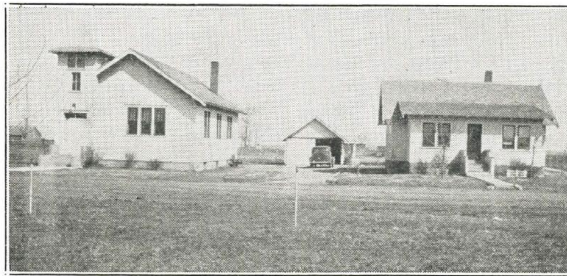
tor of one of Synod's outposts arrived to conduct a preliminary survey of this locality. Sufficient prospects to warrant future growth influenced the explorers to establish a preaching station. The pulpit would be supplied from the afore-mentioned outpost some twenty-two miles away, which, however, for all practical purposes, was inaccessible to the Tappenites. This arrangement remained in force for about three years. Developments in the parish by this time seemed to demand that a resident pastor be placed here. In consequence, a graduate of our Wauwatosa Theological Seminary arrived on the scene, and on September 1, 1923, was installed in the local Congregational community church building in the midst of an attentive audience of ten adults and six children.

Pastor Eugene Hinderer energetically attacked the task set before him. In January, 1924, an organization was created that henceforth was to bear the name: "St. John's Lutheran Church at Tappen, Kidder County, North Dakota. Two years later a generous loan from Synod's Church Extension Fund was the cause of great rejoicing among the loyal people of St. John's. Before fall their fond dream of possessing their own church home and parsonage was realized. Work now commenced in earnest in gathering in straying, indifferent, shepherdless Lutherans, though the unchurched multitudes were by no means neglected. Contacts were established in various villages to the east and in a rural settlements to the north. The old rural Synod-outpost near Streeter dissolved in the course of time. In its place a new organization was born that now met in the town of Streeter and became a permanent part of the parish. Finally, after more than fifteen years of self-sacrificing, self-denying service in this

extensive field, Pastor Hinderer delivered his farewell sermon on December 26, 1938, preparatory to assuming a pastorate at Bristol, Wisconsin. Pastor E. H. Krueger of Mandan, No. Dak., supplied the vacancy at Tappen until Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 1939, when St. John's again received a resident pastor in the person of Wm. P. Holzhausen.

While the growth of God's kingdom at Tappen has not

been phenomenal, there has, however, been a consistent, healthy increase, and there were especially notable accretions through adult confirmation. The records of the congregation reveal the following statistics: two well-attended services are conducted every Sunday morning, one in English and one in German; there is a voting



St. John's Church, Tappen, No. Dak.

membership of 48; 100 communicants; 315 souls; 93 are registered in the Sunday school; 5222.15 were raised during the past ten months for Synodical purposes. The congregation has a mixed choir as well as a Junior choir and an active Ladies' Aid. By the grace of God we hope in the not-too-distant future to become self-sustaining. The property of St. John's, conveniently located on twelve lots, presents an inviting appearance, easily outstanding among the church homes of the village, the congregational community, the German Evangelical, and the only Roman Catholic church in Kidder County. In retrospect, we cannot help but marvel at our gracious Lord's infinite goodness in developing His Zion in this outlying district, and are reminded once more of His word recorded in the 100th Psalm: "Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture."

Wm. P. Holzhausen.

Pastor Holzhausen contributed this article, published in the official Wisconsin Synod magazine, The Northwestern Lutheran, Vol. 27, No. 10 (May 19, 1940).

No entries appear in the old financial "Journal" between early 1937 and 1940. Records for 1941 and 1942 show that special offerings were given in those years, to retire the congregation's debt. Detailed lists of names of people who gave specific offerings appear for 1941, 1942, and 1943 — which is as late as the entries in this journal go. The names are associated with envelope numbers, and the lists indicate that as many as 126 different households and individuals had offering envelopes in those years.

In August 1941, a bequest of \$500.00 made by the late Henry Kress of St. John's became available to the congregation, and this was applied to the Church Extension Fund debt against the church property. This gift served to stimulate the congregation to the extent that a debt-reduction campaign was inaugurated, which realized the sum of \$300.00 for debts, besides enough to put two coats of paint on the buildings the following spring. The buildings were painted in 1942. A compromise-settlement offer by the Board of Trustees of Joint Synod was brought to the attention of the congregation by the District Mission Board Chairman, Pastor P.G. Albrecht. In the late fall congregation raised a sum of \$1,080.00, which sum was accepted as payment in full on the debt. So the congregation was entirely free of debt at the close of 1942.

In January, 1943, Pastor Holzhausen accepted a call to serve as pastor of Trinity, West Mequon, Wisconsin. During the vacancy, Pastor O.W. Heier of Jamestown served the congregation.

On February 24, 1943, Pastor E.L. Mehlberg of Faith, South Dakota, accepted the call to serve St. John's in Tappen. He was installed at St. John's on Invocavit Sunday, March 14, 1943, by Pastor O.W. Heier. During his pastorate, the pastor's salary was increased 10%, the parsonage was re-shingled, a janitor was hired, and the 40 members adopted a \$2,500 budget.

At the close of the year 1943 the members of St. John's decided that the congregation should be able to support itself in the future. On January 1, 1944 St. John's officially became self-supporting.

The congregation also took steps to beautify its house of worship. In the month of May, 1944 the interior of the church was painted. The parsonage was re-shingled on the south side in the spring of 1943, and in the following spring of 1944 a hot water system was installed by the congregation.

The arrangement for the time of Sunday services and Sunday School was continued as before. Bilingual services were held whenever regular services were conducted.

At the suggestion of the Mission Board, the Crystal Springs territory was canvassed to ascertain the advisability of beginning a mission there. The canvass, which was conducted by Pastors O.W. Heier and J.J. Wendland, revealed that a mission at Crystal

Springs was highly warranted. Pastor Mehlberg accordingly began to hold regular Sunday afternoon services in the north room of the Village public school house which the School Board of that district kindly offered for use without charge. Regular afternoon services were begun in Crystal Springs on November 7, 1943, with adult instruction and Sunday School immediately after the service.

During the summer months of 1944, some members of the Crystal Springs mission painted their place of worship, giving it a more cheerful and wholesome atmosphere. Additions were also made to give the room a more churchly appearance. On August 9, 1944, Mrs. Ole Halvorsen, a member of the Crystal Springs mission, donated about 150 acres of land in South Dakota to our Wisconsin Synod, the proceeds of which were to be used for missions.

On August 13, 1944, Pastor Mehlberg accepted a call to serve Immanuel congregation at Pelican Lake, Minnesota. Pastor E. H. Krueger of Mandan served during the vacancy.

On October 22, 1944, Pastor Ruben Kettenacker was installed at St. John's, with Pastor Krueger officiating and Pastor G. Ehlert of Hazelton assisting. During his four-year tenure, the budget of the congregation was raised to \$4,000. A committee was established to look into the possibility of adding bathroom facilities to the parsonage. In January 1945 the congregation installed a new furnace and water softener in the parsonage. New light fixtures were also installed in the parsonage.

In January, 1945, the Crystal Springs mission was dropped. The members requested to attend services at Tappen.

On February 29, 1948, Pastor Kettenacker accepted a call to Charles City, Iowa. A five-month vacancy came with his leaving.

After several calls from the field, the congregation submitted its request to the Assignment Committee of the Synod for the purpose of obtaining a pastor. The call was answered when Pastor Loren Schaller was assigned to Tappen in 1948. A mimeograph was purchased and bulletins were printed every Sunday.

During his pastorate, a \$2,900, 12' x 60' addition was added to the parsonage, and bathroom fixtures were installed. A Minshall-Estey organ was purchased new for \$1,010. This organ served the needs of the congregation in both the old and the new church buildings for 18 years. The budget was increased to \$7,500.

On May 20, 1951, Pastor Schaller accepted a call to Osceola, Wisconsin.

On June 12, 1951, Pastor Edward J. Otterstatter of Flasher, North Dakota was called. At a quarterly meeting on September 30 of the same year, a motion was passed to appoint a committee to start a Building Fund for a new church. The men elected were Norbert Borth, Roy Haadem, Donald Hasse, Ben Heiden, John Hoffer, and Harold Wallner. The amount of the first collection was \$623.25. A beginning was made.

The following comments appear in the program prepared for the mortgage burning service, in 1968:



*Pastor & Mrs. E.J. Otterstatter
in Tappen, 1956*

New years bring new needs. The old church was not to remain for long. Many members can recall the crowded conditions which existed in the old building. The Sunday Services were crowded to say nothing of the festivals. If a person wanted to get a seat on Christmas Eve, he had to come quite early before the actual Service began. If a person wanted to guarantee that he had a seat for a Funeral Service, again he had to arrive quite a bit ahead of schedule before the time for Worship. The old building didn't seem quite adequate to accommodate the needs of the growing congregation. More space was obviously in demand.

Space for the Service wasn't the only reason a new building was needed. The Sunday School was in dire need for more room to conduct the growing Sunday School of nearly 100 children. Although the church basement, the parsonage basement, and the church native were used for facilities, additional space was essential. Something had to be done.

There was still another reason why a NEW church building was needed. The old structure was worn out from use and remodeling would have been like adding several inches of leather to a worn-out shoe. It seemed financially unsound to remodel. Nothing could have been done with a humid basement. Many can remember when water stood as high as the tables. Such humid conditions were not conducive for Worship. A change in buildings was almost essential.

The Fund continued to grow. By January 1954 the total amounted to \$3079.66. In 1955, the question of beginning the building was brought before the congregation, but it was

defeated, 12–9. Time passed — collections continued and by January 1957, this Fund amounted to \$11,606.62.

During the six and a half-year pastorate of Rev. Otterstatter, stokers were installed in both church and parsonage. Like David of the Bible, Pastor Otterstatter had the privilege of beginning the new church, but someone else was to do the actual building. The Building Fund total increased to \$15,213.45. On December 22, 1957, Pastor Otterstatter accepted a call to Monticello, Minnesota. Pastor Helmuth Rutz of Jamestown was the vacancy pastor for the six-month vacancy, during which five calls were issued before the prayers of the congregation were answered.

Pastor Frederick Mutterer became our next pastor in June, 1958. During the three and a half years of Pastor Mutterer's tenure, a Stewardship Committee was organized, a Cradle Roll program was initiated, and other organizational activity was undertaken.

On July 20, 1958, the first son of the congregation was ordained and commissioned as a missionary to Nigeria. This was Alvin Werre, son of Mr. & Mrs. Christ Werre.

A New Church Building for St. John's

The most noticeable change during Pastor Mutterer's time here was the building of the new church. The need was definitely there.

On November 2, 1958, the congregation voted to begin plans for building a new church building. The plans were broken down into four committees. They were the Construction Plans, Finances, Interior, & Location. Since this was to be a project for ALL the members of the congregation, it was felt that ALL the voters should have some part on one of the committees.

In January of the following year, the plans for the new church were presented to the voters. The following is a quote from the January 25th, 1959 Sunday Bulletin: "The Plans for our new church were presented to the voters of our congregation last Thursday evening. The very first sketches of our architect were presented. Our architect (Mr. David Schoenrock of Hazen, North Dakota) plans to use all the volunteer help our congregation can supply. Cost estimates depend on what you are willing to do with your hands. The more we do, the bigger and better quality church we will have for the least amount of money."

On February 2, 1959, a contract was signed with Schoenrock Sons, Inc. of Hazen, North Dakota. The following is another quote from the Sunday Bulletin of February 15, 1959: "In our meeting last Sunday the contract was signed for the building of our new church.

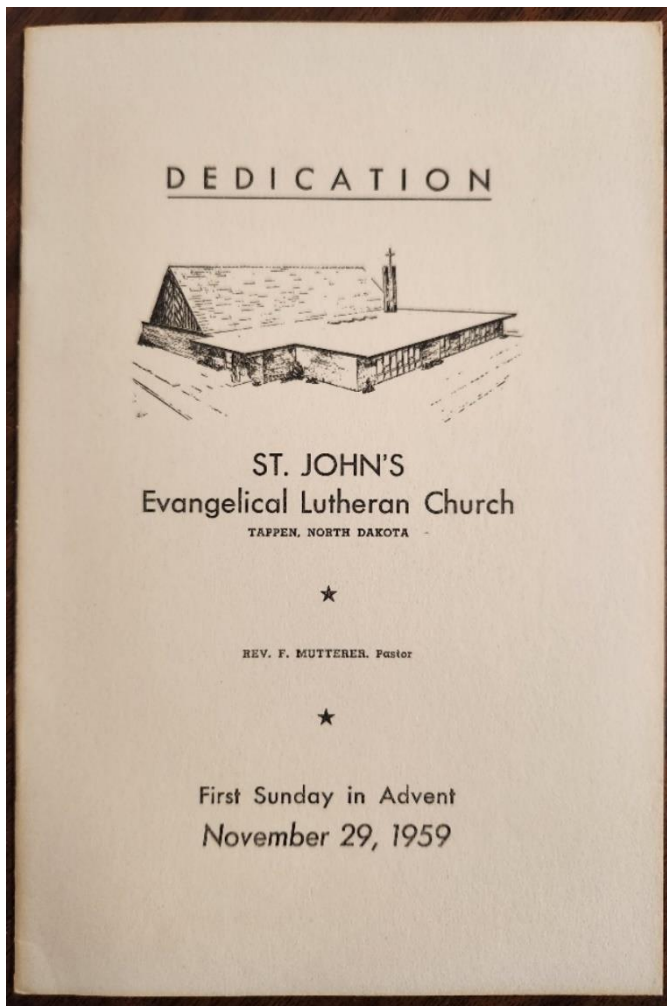
The cost was about \$60,000. It is our sincere hope that we have over half this much money on hand by the time we break ground this spring.” From another quote it is learned that one canvass made during the months of February & March netted \$6,081.06 in cash.

Ground-breaking services were held on Easter Sunday, April 5, 1959, with Pastor S. Baer, the initial pastor in Tappen, then of Morton, Minnesota, preaching and turning the first shovelful of earth. The first major building step actually begun. Already the brick had arrived and was paid for and the first load of lumber had been brought.

Cornerstone-laying services were held on May 17, 1959. Former pastor Professor Loren Schaller was the guest speaker. Together with the Festival Collection, the Building Fund amounted to \$26,348.73.

Soon the brick began to be put in place, cement was poured for the arches, scaffolds were built and by the 7th of July the arches and beams were ready to be put in place. This was followed by insulation, shingling, filling the window frames, & finishing the roof. In

spite of the much-needed rain during the first part of September, the building began to resemble a church.



As the building of the church progressed, the members (men, women, and children) willingly gave of their time and talents. Nearly 10,000 hours of labor was donated; about 175 or seven out of every eight communicants were actively engaged in the building project. And that donating of time went right up to the day of dedication — at 2:00 A.M. on Dedication Day, November 29, 1959, people were still busy completing the essential items. All work came to an end when services began.

The worshipers gathered in the old church for the last time. After a hymn was sung, a procession moved to the new building. The keys were handed to the pastor, the lock was turned, a prayer was offered, the president of the congregation opened the door for

the first time, and this new building was being used for a House of God. Pastor Ruben Kettenacker preached for the morning German and English Service. Pastor Donald Kolander was the afternoon speaker. The evening service message was delivered by Pastor Martin Janke of Roscoe, South Dakota. To make it more of a festal day, an organ borrowed from a music store in Fargo was used for the three services. Miss Shirley Martin, Miss Rogene Doerr, and Mrs. F. Mutterer played the organ for these special services.

Dedication, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tappen, North Dakota. Rev. F. Mutterer, Pastor. First Sunday in Advent, November 29, 1959.

The Dedication Service, 10 a.m.

Hymns: "For Many Years, O God of Grace"
"In Loud, Exalted Strains"
"Kommt her, ihr Christen, voller Freud" (*German*)
"Here in Thy Name, Eternal God"

The Scripture Lesson: 1 Kings 8:1–14a

Choir Anthem: "The Lord God Hitherto Hath Helped Us" (Stein)

Sermon was delivered by Rev. Ruben Kettenacker, in both English and German.

Organist: Miss Shirley Martin

Choir Directress: Mrs. F. Mutterer

The Festival Service, 3:00 p.m.

Hymns: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"
"Great Is the Lord, Our God"
"Founded on Thee, Our Only Lord"

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 10:19–25

Gospel Reading: Luke 19:1–10

Choir Anthem: "Now Thank We All Our God"

Guest Preacher: Pastor Donald Kolander

Organist: Miss Rogene Doerr

The Evening Service, 10:00 a.m.

The Order of Vespers

Hymns: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"
"Come, Jesus, from the Sapphire Throne"
"Abide with Me"

Psalm: Psalm 122

The Lection: 1 Kings 8:22–30

Choir Anthem: "Built on a Rock the Church Doth Stand"

Officiant: Pastor F. Mutterer

Guest Preacher: Pastor Martin Janke

Organist: Mrs. F. Mutterer

From the bulletin for the dedication services, pages 12 & 13:

Architect's Description of the New Church

The dignity and beauty of our structure serves to direct the mind and the soul to the spiritual and the heavenly.

The architecture is of contemporary adaptation. The functional lines and plan make this new house of worship extremely fitting for all categories of church worship and functions. Since the structure is built entirely above ground, basement steps are entirely eliminated.

The overall dimensions are 101 feet by 86 feet, and cover 7500 square feet of area. The church proper and or nave will seat 280 people. There are facilities for an additional 60 people in the overflow side aisles, and to the rear of the present pews. Choir facilities will seat an additional 25.

The exterior is faced with Hebron brick. The interior is made up of different arrangements of light weight masonry. A thickness of styrofoam insulation is between these two masonry walls.

The entire roof structure is made up of laminated beams and trusses. These are covered with three inch decking, over which is applied a one and one-half inch fiberglass insulation, and 300 pound combination shingles. The flat deck over the narthex, kitchen, assembly, and other rooms is five ply built up roof.

The dominating tower is on the east side of the nave. It rises to a height of thirty-three feet above the ground. An aluminum cross reaches another fifteen feet above the tower.

The back wall of the chancel is also layed up of Hebron brick to typify the solidity of our Lutheran heritage. A large cedar cross is suspended from this wall above the altar. The altar is made up of Wisconsin limestone, with carved oak inset.

The chancel is covered with nylon carpet. Cork tile and corktone asphalt tile cover the nave floor.

The warm radiant color scheme of the windows and interior finish blend to give this an inviting, worshipful atmosphere.

The remainder of the building consists of a spacious assembly which is forty-four by thirty-four feet. The large narthex combines to serve as a vestibule for the

assembly area. The kitchen is arranged with complete facilities. There is a larger meeting room or class room, a boiler room, lavatories, and a sacristy study.

The building is heated with two small boilers and baseboard radiant type heating units.

This imposing structure stands as a living monument to the faith and vision, the courage and co-operation, the patience and sacrifice of the members of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran congregation.

— D. Schoenrock, Architect

DONATED LABOR:

Without the countless willing hands of nearly every congregation member this building would be impossible.

Our first brick arrived on Ash Wednesday, February 11. From that time on members, and many other interested people in the community, took part whenever and wherever possible. Space does not permit us to mention all by name. To you we say today: "Thank You" and "God bless you all for your help."

Special thanks are due to the "truckers" who were willing to go at a moment's notice. They saved us much freight. Tractors were available whenever we needed them.

Sanders and finishers, painters and lacquerers kept pace with the carpenters. In all we would estimate about ten thousand hours of help were donated.

A special "thank you" is warmly extended to the ladies who have faithfully served lunch to the workers since July. Morning, afternoon, and evening crews were refreshed and enjoyed the visiting during lunch-time.

Surely we were all brought much closer together through this effort for the Lord. May He continue to draw us closer together in the unity of the faith.

The following appeared in the program prepared for the mortgage burning service in 1968:

This quote was taken from the NORTHWESTERN LUTHERAN issue of January 31, 1960 — "Were not for His guidance of our congregation so that 7 out of 8 members were able to help, donating nearly 10,000 hours of labor; were it not for

His blessing upon the architect-contractor and laborers; certainly our building would not yet be dedicated to His Service. Only our Lord could work in our hearts the willingness to serve Him in this glorious undertaking.” The Lord was responsible for moving the hearts of His people to see the initial need for a church. It was going to be the LORD who was going to see the remaining debt through to completion.

In order to pay for the building, a loan was negotiated through the A.A.L. for the sum of \$30,000. This loan was supposed to be paid for by February 21, 1970. Some said — “it will never be done.” Others thought that the loan could be taken care of in several years. Although by the First Anniversary of Dedication the Building was 2/3 paid for, much was left to be done.

Pastor Mutterer accepted a call to serve as pastor of Fox Lake, Wisconsin in 1961. During the next 19 months, the congregation was without a full-time pastor. Two vacancy Pastors — Roland Zimmerman, of Bismarck, N.D., and Marvin Putz of Valley City, N.D. — did admirable work in serving the congregation from 60 and 85 miles distant. Many calls were issued and returned during these 19 months.

In April, 1963, Pastor Ernst Klaszus of Dowagiac, Michigan, became pastor of the congregation. He served Tappen until May 1965, when he accepted a call to serve a mission in Canada. A 14-month vacancy existed after he left. Pastor George Rothe of Bismarck was the vacancy pastor.

On July 24, 1966, Pastor Walter Oelhafen, Jr., a graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wisconsin, was installed as pastor here. Perhaps the most memorable day during his pastorate was the Mortgage Burning Service held on November 17, 1968, nine years after the church was built. The following comments appeared in the program for that service:

Although many had hoped that the church building would be paid off in 2 years, this was not to be the case. ... In 1961 & 1962 over \$13,000 was received for the debt. From 1963–1965 a total of approximately \$7,500 was received for a 3 year period. From 1966–1968 about a 2 and ½ year period — about \$12,300 was collected. As most of you will recall, 1967 was a very bad year as far as crops went. Lack of money doesn’t seem to hinder the Lord’s Kingdom, but a lack of love certainly can do its worst to the Lord’s Business.

For the original \$30,000 loan a total of \$6,165.10 was paid in interest rates. If the congregation would have waited until it had ALL of the funds, the cost of the building increase would have FAR outweighed the interest rates that were paid.

As we look back over the years, we at St. John's have MUCH for which to be thankful. The Lord brought us through many a dark and dreary day in more times than we would perhaps admit.

The comment the Architect made in the Dedication Booklet is worth repeating: "This imposing structure stands as a living monument to the faith and vision, the courage and cooperation, the patience and sacrifice of the members of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church."

THE LORD SAYS

At this point, let us turn to Psalm 115:1 – NOT UNTO US, O LORD, NOT UNTO US, BUT UNTO THY NAME GIVE GLORY, FOR THY MERCY, AND THY MERCY'S SAKE. If this be our attitude, we cannot help but appreciate our Savior by our love for his Word ... for His purpose in our lives ...

WE THANK GOD ... AND REMEMBER ...

Pastor Mutterer preached for this occasion. His sermon text was Psalm 50:14–15, and the sermon theme was "Time Marches On." The Parsonage Fund was started when Pastor Mutterer returned the expense check that was given to him, and he requested that it be used to open this fund.

Later that same day, November 17, 1968, a Dedicatory Organ Recital was held at 2:30 p.m., followed by the Organ Dedication Service at 3 p.m. Mrs. Anita Schultz was the dedicatory organist; pre-service musical selections included *Prelude and Fugue in F, Ein Feste Burg, Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland, Vom Himmel Hoch, Herzliebster Jesu, Christ Lag in Todesbanden, Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, and Voluntary on the Doxology*. Pastor Marvin Putz of Mandan was the guest preacher. The following notes appear in the program for that day:

As far back as 1959, the purchase of a different organ was discussed, and a committee to look into this was appointed.

Organ interest was renewed when a gift for \$1,000 was received for 'something the church needed badly in the building'. Other Funeral Memorials followed & offerings were designated for the Organ Fund. As of this writing over \$1,700 has been offered in Bequests or Memorials.

The voters took action to begin looking into the different organs available. Four different organs were used for 4 different Services. The first was an ALLEN, then came a RODGERS, the next was a BALDWIN, and the last was a WURLITZER. At a Special Meeting on August 25th a nearly unanimous vote favored the

RODGERS. The list price of this organ amounted to \$6,000, but eventually the transaction was completed for \$4,000.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW ORGAN

The RODGERS organ is a 3 manual – “Trilogy” model, with full foot pedal accompaniment, two sets of speakers installed in the front and rear of the church, a Heart and Carillon unit installed, 28 ‘stops,’ 4 Couplers, & one Mixture. This organ should serve well the needs of the congregation for many years to come.

In June, 1969, Pastor Oelhafen accepted a call to serve at Flint, Michigan. There was a one-month vacancy, with Pastor Rothe serving the congregation.

Years of Service and Thanksgiving: The Late Twentieth Century

Pastor Russell Kloehn, assigned to Tappen from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, was ordained and installed into the ministry at St. John’s on June 29, 1969. For the first two years, the pastor and his family lived in the old parsonage. During his pastorate, plans were selected for the new parsonage; the contract was signed on June 16, 1971, with C. H. Carpenter Lumber Co. in Jamestown. It was decided that the men of the congregation would tear down the old parsonage and that an auction be held.



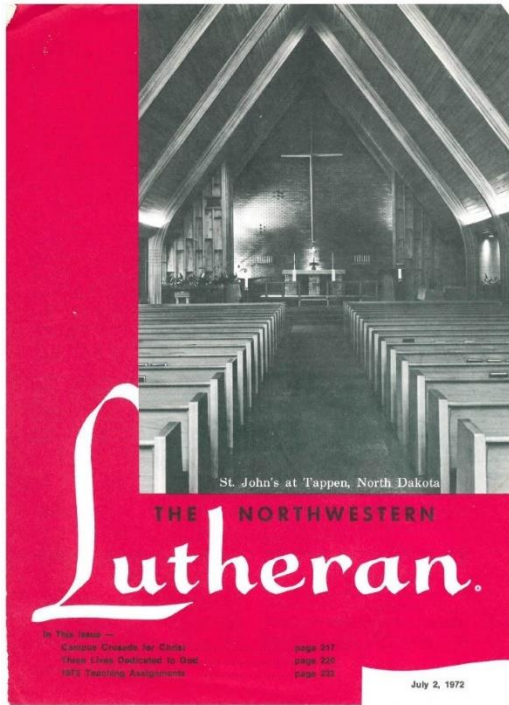
Pastor R. W. Kloehn



ST. JOHN'S PARSONAGE

The new parsonage when completed, 1971

While the new parsonage was being built, the pastor and his family lived in the back classroom of the church. The members also gave of their time and talents to complete the building of the house. On Sunday, November 28, 1971, the new parsonage was dedicated, with Pastor Mutterer as guest speaker.



St. John's featured on the cover of The Northwestern Lutheran (predecessor of Forward in Christ), July 1972

wiped out the “guilty” sentence and pronounced us “innocent”; which brought of out of darkness into the kingdom of light; which removed our misery and doubt and filled us with joy and hope. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.” (Eph. 2:8)

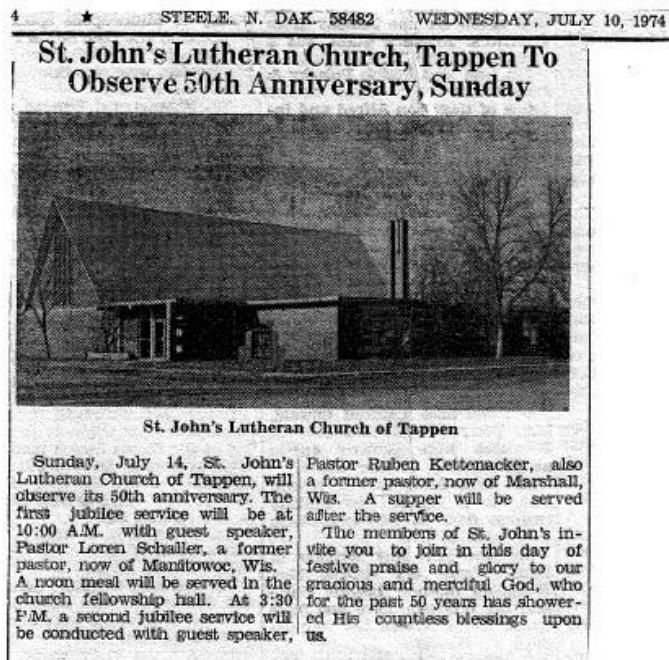
May God who has preserved His Word unto us in its truth and purity these past years continue granting this congregation His grace and mercy as “ye continue in the grace of God.”

On July 14, 1974, the congregation observed its fiftieth anniversary. Pastor Kloehn wrote the following, in his “Pastor’s Message:”

“Continue (ye) in the grace of God.” (Acts 13:43)

St. John’s Ev. Lutheran Church has set aside July 14, 1974, as a day of rejoicing and thanksgiving to Almighty God for His unmerited grace bestowed upon this congregation the past fifty years.

That little word GRACE is like a small window that opens out to a great landscape; for it gathers up into one expression the whole infinite variety of benefices and bestowments which the Lord showers down upon us. It is the undeserved love and favor of God toward man. It is this grace of God which gave us our Savior; which removed our sins; which took away death and gave us life; which



Fiftieth anniversary service announcement in the Steele Ozone

The following additional comments appear in the historical review of the congregation prepared for that day:

ON THIS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY WE GIVE THANKS to the glory of the Triune God by Whose Mercy and Grace St. John's Congregation was founded and preserved; to the memory of the courageous members and former pastors who built the congregation of Jesus Christ, the chief Cornerstone; to the faithful members of today, who following in the footsteps of their fathers, are laboring zealously to guarantee the preaching and teaching of God's holy and saving Word to their children and their children's children.

All Glory Be to God!

By God's grace, we at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tappen, North Dakota, are able to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the church's organization on July 14, 1974. For this we should be thankful: thankful that we know Jesus Christ as our Savior from sin, thankful that God sent Jesus to fulfill the law of God in our stead; thankful that the Holy Ghost has brought us to accept and believe the Gospel of salvation, thankful that God has preserved among us the changeless Bible truths in their truth and purity, thankful for His grace!

Nicholson

ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
TAPPEN, NORTH DAKOTA



FIFTY YEARS OF GRACE
1924-1974

Cover of the 50th anniversary booklet

As we show our thankfulness to God for his abundant blessings, we also remember that it was only by God's grace that this Christian congregation was established in our community. We remember the many sacrifices on the part of our fathers and ourselves to start and maintain this organization. We remember that it was God who gave the desire to build His house — to worship His Name. We thus confess with the Psalmist: "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name give glory!"

It is with this thought in mind that we turn to our God and thank Him for being able to observe this 50th Anniversary. In thanking Him, we also remember His many blessings — to us and to our fathers. We thank God ... and remember ...

...

July 14, 1974, we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the organization of our congregation. The guest speakers for this service are Pastor Schaller of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, in the morning service; and Pastor Kettenacker of Marshall, Wisconsin, in the afternoon service.

What a memorable day this should be as we look back over 50 years of God's wonderful grace that he has bestowed upon us. For 50 years our congregation has been privileged to participate in the glorious work of building up the Kingdom of Jesus Christ among men. For 50 years the Gospel of the crucified Son of God has been proclaimed in this place in its truth and purity. For 50 years we have enjoyed the grace of God. It is only right and proper that we pause and reflect upon this grace of God unto us with this day of jubilation and special services.

In spite of hardships, drought, extreme heat, and poor crops, the church has still continued to survive. God has given us His promise — "My Word shall not return unto Me void." Our Savior has furthermore told us — "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Thus we say with the Psalmist: "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory, for Thy mercy and Thy truth's sake."

May God's grace continue to rest upon us as we strive together for the Gospel of Christ so that His kingdom may come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

W
O
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Church Council



Sunday School



Young People's Society



Ladies' Aid Society



Mixed Choir



Ushers

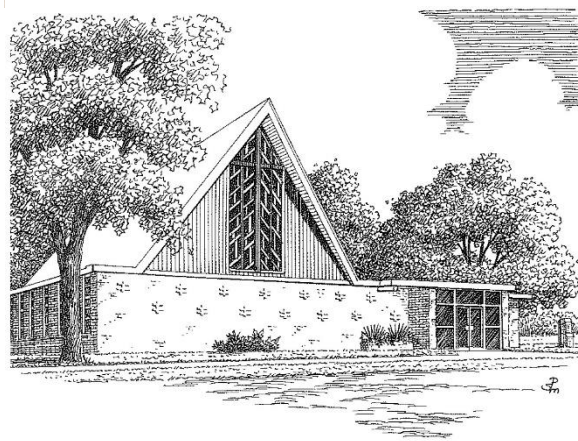
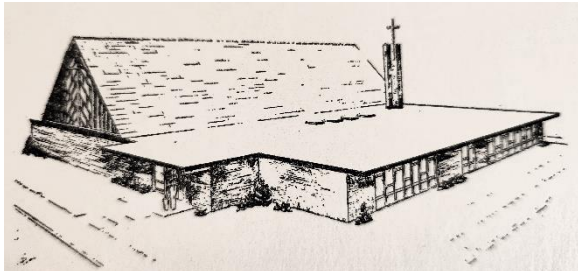


Organists

From the 50th anniversary booklet

“Now unto Him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”

Ephesians 3:20–21



*Sketches of the new church building,
used in our bulletins and print materials
for many years*

Pastor Kloehn served at St. John’s through November 1974, when he accepted a call from a congregation in Ontario, Wisconsin. Upon his departure, Pastor Henry Ellwein accepted a call to St. John’s from Estelline, South Dakota. He served here until his retirement in June 1977; during retirement, he lived in Rapid City, S.D.

Mindful of the bad effects of long vacancies, the voters’ assembly went directly to the Seminary when Pastor Ellwein announced his retirement. There was no vacancy. Pastor Roger Kovaciny was ordained at St. John’s in July of 1977.

In 1978, a second son of the congregation, Elton Stroh, was ordained as a home missionary in Kansas City, Missouri. He continues to serve at this time, now in the Crossroads Consulting Ministry, based in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin.

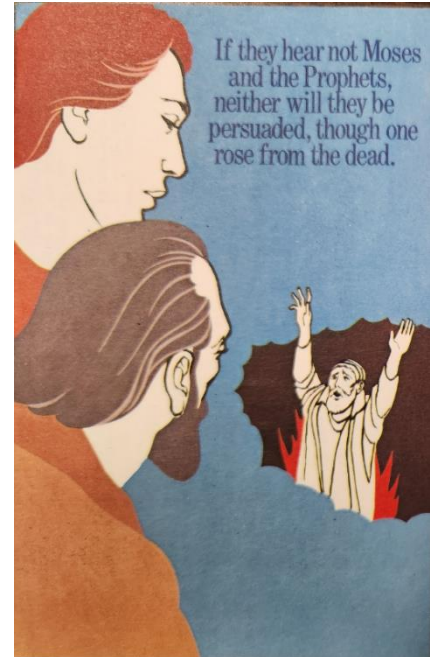
In 1978, a community history book was prepared in honor of Tappen’s centennial year. The submission to that book for St. John’s is reprinted at the end of this history, providing a snapshot of the congregation’s leadership and activities during that time.

The 55th anniversary of the congregation was observed on July 8, 1979. On that day, the mortgage from the parsonage construction was burned, and the congregation also gave thanks for being completely free of debt. An anniversary service was held at 10 a.m., mortgage burning at 11 a.m., dinner at 11:45, and a German service at 2:00 p.m.

In the service bulletin for August 19, 1979, Pastor Kovaciny reported that average attendance at St. John’s in 1977 was 161; in 1978, 150; in 1979, 140. This decline was a continuation of a trend already seen while the two previous pastors were serving here. Offerings, on the other hand, had increased. New carpeting was installed in the church and entry in December, 1980. The church pews were refinished in late 1983 and early 1984.

On December 13, 1983, Pastor Kovaciny informed the congregation that he had accepted a call to Lamb of God, Columbus, Ohio. A farewell dinner for Pastor Kovaciny and his family was held on January 1, 1984. Pastor Kovaciny later went on to serve our sister church body in Ukraine. For a number of years, St. John's helped to support the work of ministry in Ukraine

through mission offerings and volunteer efforts. Former Pastor, then Professor Kovaciny returned to St. John's as a guest preacher on November 18, 2012, and again as a guest speaker on November 26, 2017.



Service bulletin, May 28, 1978, typical of the style of that time

Fred Wallner

The funeral for Fred Wallner, 96, formerly of Tappen, will be 11 a.m. Thursday in St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tappen, with Rev. Steven Steiner officiating.

Burial will be in Fisher Cemetery, Tappen, with Eddy Funeral Home in charge of arrangements. He died Sunday at Rapid City, S.D.

Mr. Wallner was born Aug. 12, 1891, at Gibbon, Minn., the son of Louis and Augusta (Draves) Wallner. He received his education at Gibbon and moved to Watertown S.D. in 1912. He married Sylvia Bell Dec. 20, 1916, at Watertown. They came to North Dakota in 1920 and settled in Westford Township near Tappen. She died Dec. 8, 1976.

He moved to Tappen in December, 1984, and in 1985 he moved to Rapid City where he has lived for the past three years with his daughter and son-in-law.

He was a member of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tappen.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Mike Hellman (Doris), Rapid City, S.D., and Mrs. John Santos (Marcella), San Leandro, Calif.; two sons, Cecil Wallner, Jamestown, and Irvin Wallner, Tappen; 10 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and one sister, Anne Stoner, Watertown, S.D.

In addition to his wife and his parents, he was preceded in death by one son, five brothers and five sisters.

Obituary of Fred Wallner, a founding member of St. John's, 1988

Pastor Alan W. Gumm from St.

Paul's in Hazelton served as vacancy pastor from January through March of 1984. Pastor Steven W. Steiner, a 1981 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary who was then serving in Daytona Beach, Florida, accepted the divine call issued through the congregation. He was installed on March 11, 1984, with Pastor John Ruege, Sr., of Bismarck, serving as liturgist for the service. The sixtieth anniversary of St. John's was observed in a special service on July 8, 1984.

From the 60th Anniversary Service Bulletin:

The 60th Anniversary of St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

July 8, 1984

Order of Service: The Lutheran Hymnal, page 5

The Hymns: "God the Father, Son, and Spirit"

"All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above"

"All Glory Be to God Alone"

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

The Epistle: I Kings 8:27-30

The Gospel: John 10:11-16

Sermon Text and Theme: Psalm 115:1

“Not Ours, But Yours Be The Glory”

Guest Preacher: Pastor R.W. Kloehn

Organist: Miss Corrina Haadem

Flowers on the altar given to the glory of God, in memory of Pastor Hinderer and the five families that started our congregation in 1924, by Mr. & Mrs. Roy Haadem.



Christmas Day
bulletin, 1986

On the evening of October 26, 1984, the student choir from Nebraska Ev. Lutheran High School presented a sacred concert at St. John's.

The congregation's receipts for 1984 totaled \$43,503.55, and expenses were \$43,162.42.

Also in October 1984, the congregation applied for membership in the association of the proposed Dakota-Montana District area Lutheran high school. In 1988, Terry Kemmet served as president of the Dakota-Montana Lutheran High School Association. He

August and Emma were united in marriage by Rev. Arnold Schultz at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Elk Grove, California.

The bridesmaids were Dorothy Johnson and Ruth Gross. Oscar Johnson and Leo Lang were groomsmen and Irene Johnson was flowergirl.

August and Emma, while in California, managed a garage, purchased and operated a grocery store and service station. August was also assistant Chief-of-Police. They moved to North Dakota and purchased the family farm 5½ miles south of Tappen in Kidder County. They farmed for 20 years, then in 1973 held an auction and moved to Steele.

They were blessed with eight children:
Mrs. Quincy (Caroline) Maw, Tappen
Marilyn Lang, Colorado
Robert Stroh, California
Arthur Stroh, California
Mary Stroh, Fargo
Mrs. Roy (Janet) Holzer, Bismarck
Mrs. John (Connie) Hoffman, Bismarck
Rev. Elton Stroh, Wisconsin
They have 27 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Emma has been employed with Steele Super Valu the past 14 years and August worked six summers for Pepple Machine. They keep busy with being of service to neighbors and friends. August always finds time to play pool and they both still like to fish.

Guest Book Sarah Ackerman
Beth Schock

Host and Hostess Bud & Mary Hedges
Bob & Emma Garner

Cards Stephany Stroh
Brian Stroh

Punch Servers Denise Lang
Karla Emter

Coffee Pourers Delaine Stroh
Delores Stroh

Cake Cutters Eva Tellefson
Maggie Smith

Brides Table Nancy Kapp
Deanna Lang

Pin Flowers Bonney Stroh

Waitresses Karen Bodvig
Patty Jahak
Debbie Martin
Kathryn Muir
Tammie Stakeup
Lucy Smith

Photographer Alton Stroh

Served by St. John's Ladies Aid

Hosted by Children and Grandchildren

THANK YOU

Friends and neighbors and relatives so dear, for all the joys you've wished us, and for your presence here. Now when this day is over, and our guests are on their way, the memory of this joyous time will ever with us stay. God bless you all.

August and Emma

50th Anniversary

AUGUST and EMMA
1939-MARCH 19-1989

Fiftieth anniversary celebration for August and Emma Stroh, 1989

continued to be deeply involved in the establishment of what is now Great Plains Lutheran High School (GPLHS), our district's area Lutheran high school in Watertown, South Dakota. St. John's continues to be a member of the GPLHS association to this day.

In 1988, John and Fay Hoffer bequeathed a substantial amount of money to St. John's; and during Pastor Steiner's tenure, extensive remodeling inside and out was done, with much of the labor being donated. The following information appears in the service bulletin for June 21, 1992:

Below is a list of things on which we spent money. The list is in no particular order. Nothing was purposely left off the list although — since changes have been so many — it is highly likely that an item or two has been omitted.

- oil candles and greenery in sanctuary organ
- blinds, drapes, and curtains
- insulation and roofs on entire building
- weatherization materials throughout (sheetrock and insulation in all walls)
- windows in east and north side
- magnetic panes to cover west windows
- rear door
- airlock and entry
- brick work on all four sides
- church sign
- soffit and fascia all around
- upgrade copier
- choir music/fund
- Sunday school teacher training course
- local ACT (student aid) fund
- boiler for parsonage
- weatherization materials, light fixtures & carpet for parsonage basement
- air conditioner (parsonage)
- snow thrower
- riding mower
- metal fascia on parsonage
- shed behind parsonage

As always, our thanks is to God who moves in people's hearts to express their love for Jesus in ways that benefit those around them.

In 1990, Jonathan Werre, a grandson of the congregation, graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and was ordained into the pastoral ministry. Following service near the Twin Cities and in Red Deer, Alberta, he now serves as pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, in Sioux Falls, S.D. He preached at St. John's for a Mission Festival on June 6, 2021.

On June 21, 1992, a new Allen organ was dedicated, with Professor William Birsching, friend of the congregation, acting as the organist and recitalist. Prof. Birsching was instructor of music for some years at Northwestern Lutheran Academy in Mobridge, and

at that time was director of music at Northwestern College in Watertown, Wisconsin. The new organ, which continues to serve St. John's to the present time, is an Allen MDS 35, purchased through Schmitt Music, Fargo, N.D., in 1991. It features the latest in the digital reproduction technology of its time, and hence, the authenticity of its sound.

<p>THE ORGAN</p> <p>is an Allen MDS 35 purchased through Schmitt Music of Fargo in 1991. It features the latest in digital reproduction technology. Hence the authenticity of its sound.</p> <p>THE ORGANIST</p> <p>is Prof. William Birsching. He was instructor of music for some years at Northwestern Lutheran Academy in Mobridge. He is currently director of music at Northwestern College in Watertown, WI.</p> <p>* * *</p> <p>The Program</p> <p>begins with some familiar preludes. It proceeds with selections for the various seasons and festivals of the church year. It concludes with a few favorite classics. Hymn numbers are noted for those who wish to follow along and see how the work is developed from the original melody.</p> <p>All Glory Be to God on High --J. S. Bach</p> <p>Sonata in C: Toccata, Andante & Fugue --J. S. Bach</p> <p>Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele (Advent TLH 61) --Max Reger</p> <p>Von Himmel hoch (Christmas TLH 85) --Flor Peeters</p> <p>Morning Star (Epiphany TLH 128) --improvisation</p>	<p>Ein Laemmlein geht (Lent TLH 142) --Jan Bender</p> <p>Gethsemane (Good Friday TLH 174) --N. W. Powell</p> <p>Christ lag in Todesbanden (Easter TLH 195) --J. S. Bach</p> <p>Ach Gott und Herr (Ascension TLH 215) --Johann Walther</p> <p>Kom, Heiliger Geist, Herre Gott (Pentecost TLH 224)--Andreas Armsdorf</p> <p>St. Crispin (Trinity TLH 245) --Paul Bouman</p> <p>A Mighty Fortress (Reformation TLH 262) --improvisation</p> <p>Nun danket alle Gott (Thanksgiving TLH 36) --J. S. Bach</p> <p>wie schoen leuchtet (Queen of Chorales TLH 343) --Schaper</p> <p>Wachet auf (King of Chorales TLH 609)--J. S. Bach</p> <p>Vater Unser: Movement I, 6th Sonata (Prayer TLH 458) --J. S. Bach</p> <p>Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring --J. S. Bach</p> <p>Toccata --F. Widor</p> <p>* * *</p>
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Organ Dedication Concert, June 21, 1992

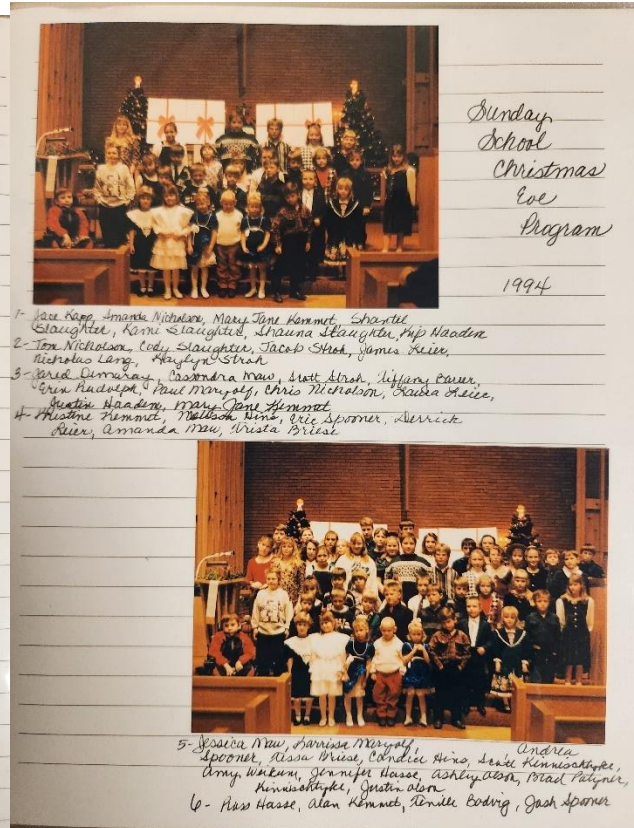
From the Service Bulletin for the Organ Dedication and Church Rededication Service and Organ Concert, June 21, 1992:

- Hymns: "Here in Thy Name, Eternal God" (sung by choir)
 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"
 "Soul, What Return Has God, Thy Savior," vv. 3,4
 "We All Believe in One True God"
 "All Depends on Our Possessing"
 "Savior, Again, to Thy Dear Name We Raise"
- Psalm: Psalm 150
- Scripture Readings: 2 Chronicles 29:25-31
 Luke 7:1-10
- Sermon Text and Theme: Galatians 1:1-10 "Rescue"
- Presiding Minister: Pastor Steven Steiner

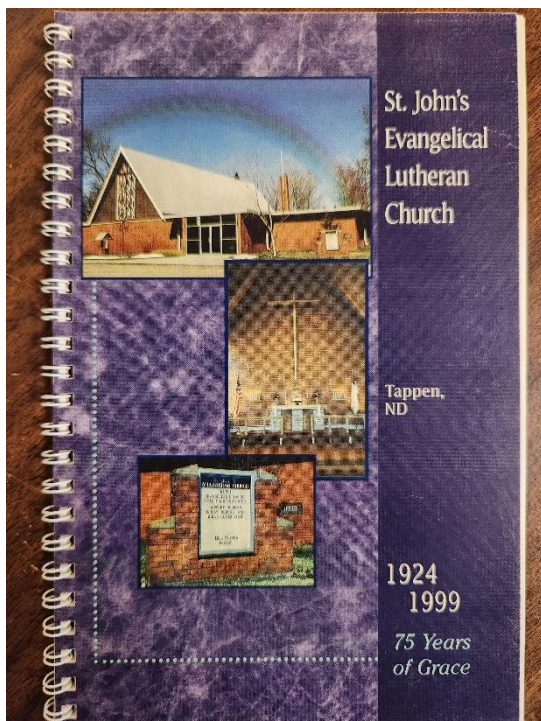
Pastor Steiner served at St. John's through the first half of 1994. From July through December 1994, Pastor James A. Fricke, of New Ulm, Minnesota, served as vacancy pastor. Pastor William H. Russow of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, was installed as Pastor at St. John's on December 11, 1994.

Some photo memories from 1993-1999:





The seventy-fifth anniversary of St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church was observed on July 25, 1999.



From the 75th Anniversary Service Bulletins:

July 25, 1999; 10 a.m. Service

A Service of Praise Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
Hymns: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

"Christ Is Our Cornerstone"

"For Many Years, O God of Grace"

"Holy God, We Praise Your Name," v. 4

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Entrance Psalm: Psalm 84

The Word of the Lord: Ephesians 2:1-9

Colossians 3:12-17

Sermon Text and Theme: Deuteronomy 32:10b-12

"Like an Eagle the Lord Has Led"

Guest Preacher: Pastor Russell Kloehn

Liturgist: Pastor Bill Russow

July 25, 1999; 2 p.m. Service

A Service of Praise Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

The Hymns: "Christ Is Our Cornerstone"

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me," vv. 1,2

"Beautiful Savior," vv. 1,4

"The Church's One Foundation"

"God's Word Is Our
Great Heritage"

"Abide with Me," vv. 1,5,7

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 96

Epistle Reading:

Ephesians 2:19-22

Gospel Reading:

John 4:4-26

Sermon Text and Theme:

Matthew 28:16-20

"Go Forward in Christ with
Confidence"

Guest Preacher: Pastor Elton
Stroh

Liturgist: Pastor Bill Russow

For both services:

Organist & Music

Coordinator: Shirley Berg

St. John's Choir Director:

Betty Russow

St. John's Ladies Aid

President: Judy Haadem

The Anniversary Committee:

Alton & Bonny Stroh, Gloria

Kemmet, Shirley Berg, Brett

& Kris Stroh, Pastor Bill

Russow


Horticulturists: Marlene

Kemmet, Betty Russow

Altar Flowers were donated

by a gift from the St. John's

Ladies Aid.



Celebrating an anniversary can be hectic! Celebrating an anniversary can be fun! An anniversary causes us to look backward with remembrance and forward with renewed purpose. As we commemorate 75 years of God's grace here at St. John's, we remember with heartfelt gratitude the numerous opportunities for worship and service that we have enjoyed. Our thoughts and feelings are expressed by the psalmist when he writes: **"I love the house where You live, O Lord, and the place where Your glory dwells."** (Psalm 26:8)

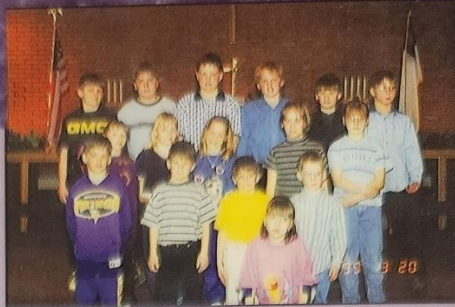
We also have the opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the Great Commission which outlines the purpose of the Church: **To Reach Out** to the thirsting souls around us and **To Nurture** those who are now part of the flock. Jesus said, **"All authority in heaven and earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always to the very end of the age."** (Matthew 28: 18-20)

With these Words of Jesus in mind, may it be our continuing purpose **To Witness**, and one way we continue to do this is through the "Jesus, The Way" Radio Broadcast, Sunday mornings over KSJB (600 AM) since May of 1995; **To Grow** in God's Word; **To Share** our Christianity; **To Live for Christ** who died and rose again - **ALL TO GOD'S GLORY.**

William Russow
Pastor

Pastor Russow's 75th anniversary greeting, 1999

Worship



LITTLE LAMBS SUNDAY SCHOOL
 Back row-Cody Slaughter, Trevor Demaray, James Leier, Tony Larson, Thomas Nicholson & Jacob Stroh. Second row-Shauna Slaughter, Kay Kemmet, Shantel Slaughter, Amanda Nicholson, & Alexis Saylor. Front row-Jason Stroh, Wesley Nicholson, Norman Nicholson, Tate Demaray & Nicole Shipley.



ORGANISTS-L TO R
 Shirley Berg, Marlene Kemmet, Beth Leier, Betty Russow and front center, Ashley Olson.



UPPER CLASS SUNDAY SCHOOL
 Back row-Derrick Leier, Kristine Kemmet, Amanda Maw, Maggie Larson, and Mary Kemmet. Front row-Erin Rudolph, Christopher Nicholson, Jared Demaray, Scott Stroh, Laura Leier and Cassandra Maw.



USHERS
 Bradley Patzner, Justin Olson and Alan Kemmet. Not pictured- Scot Dewitz, Rick Sprague, Eric Spooner, Josh Spooner, and Derrick Leier.



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS
 L-R-Kris Stroh, Betty Russow, Beth Leier, Brett Stroh, Bonney Stroh & Linda Rudolph. Alton Stroh, Superintendent.

From the 75th anniversary booklet

Service



YOUTH GROUP

Jana Kemmet, Kandace Kemmet, Alan Kemmet, Justin Olson, Bradley Patzner, Kristine Kemmet. Front row-Ashley Olson, Jennifer Hasse, and Derrick Leier. Not pictured-Josh, Andrea, and Eric Spooner, and Scot Dewitz.



CHURCH COUNCIL

Brett Stroh, Rodney Rudolph, Craig Kemmet, Bryan Stroh, Jamie Larson, Brent Stroh, Neil Nicholson, and Pastor Russow. Not Pictured-Duane Spooner.



YOUTH SERVE

Mittens, caps, and gloves for the needy. Bradley Patzner, Alan Kemmet, Jennifer Hasse, Andrea Spooner, and Kristine Kemmet.



ST. JOHN'S CHOIR

Beth Leier, Brett Stroh, Linda Patzner, Terry Kemmet, Betty Russow, Craig Kemmet, Shirley Berg, Marlene Kemmet. Front row-Bonney Stroh, Gloria Kemmet, Amy Binder, Linda Rudolph, and Pastor Russow. Not pictured-Evonne and Amy Weikum.



CONFIRMATION CLASS-LEARNING GOD'S WORD

Derrick Leier, Kristine Kemmet, Eric Spooner, and Pastor Russow.




LADIES AID

Kris Stroh, Bonney Stroh, Judy Haadem, Pam Rudolph, Gloria Kemmet, Deb Olson, Cindy Hasse, Betty Russow, Caroline Maw, Emma Stroh, and Theresa Chmielewski. Not pictured Linda Kapp.


From the 75th anniversary booklet

† St. John's
 Ev.
 Lutheran



1924-1999

75 Years



of Grace

♪ MUSIC



ORGANISTS - Shirley Berg, Marlene Kemmet, Ashley Olson, Beth Leier, Betty Russow



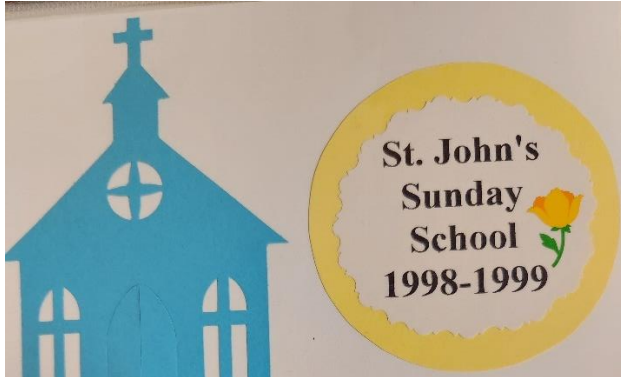
CHOIR - back row: Beth Leier, Brett Stroh, Linda Patzner, Terry Kemmet, Betty Russow, Kemmet, Shirley Berg, Marlene Kemmet, front row: Bonney Stroh, Gloria Kemmet, Pastor Russow, Amy Binder, Linda Rudolph. Not pictured - Evonne and Amy Weikum




CHURCH COUNCIL - Brett Stroh, Rodney Rudolph, Craig Kemmet, Bryan Stroh, Jamie Larson, Brent Stroh, Neil Nicholson and Pastor Russow. Not Pictured - Duane Spooner.



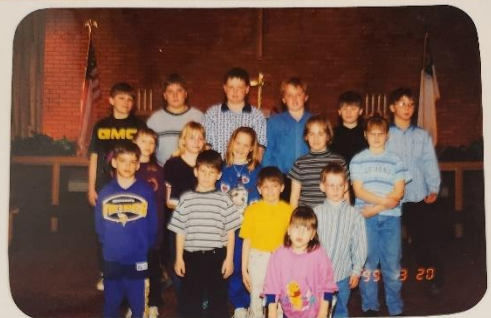
LADIES AID - Kris Stroh, Bonney Stroh, Judy Haadem, Pam Rudolph, Gloria Kemmet, Deb Olson, Cindy Hasse, Betty Russow, Caroline Maw, Emma Stroh, Theresa Chmielewski and Pastor Russow. Not Pictured - Linda Kapp.



**St. John's
Sunday
School
1998-1999**



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS - Kris Stroh, Betty Russow, Beth Leier, Brett Stroh, Bonney Stroh, Linda Rudolph, center - Alton Stroh, Sunday School Superintendent.



LITTLE LAMBS SUNDAY SCHOOL - back row - Cody Slaughter, Trevor Demaray, James Leier, Tony Larson, Thomas Nicholson and Jacob Stroh. second row - Shauna Slaughter, Kay Kemmet, Shantel Slaughter, Amanda Nicholson and Alexis Saylor. front row - Jason Stroh, Wesley Nicholson, Norman Nicholson, Tate Demaray and Nicole Shipley. Not pictured - Kaylyn Stroh, Evan Briesse, Alicia Demaray, Jordan Demaray and Dustin Blauer.



UPPER CLASS SUNDAY SCHOOL - back row - Derrick Leier, Kristine Kemmet, Amanda Maw, Maggie Larson and Mary Kemmet. front row - Erin Rudolph, Christopher Nicholson, Jared Demaray, Scott Stroh, Laura Leier and Cassondra Maw. Not pictured - Andrea Spooner.



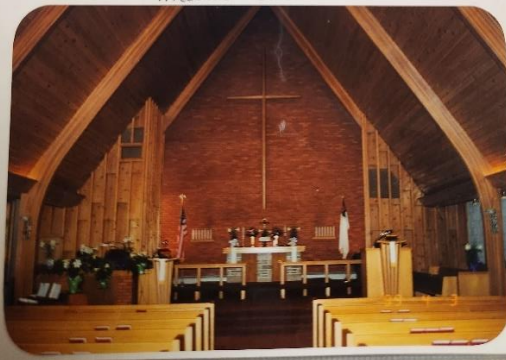

USHERS - Bradley Patzner, Justin Olson and Alan Kemmet. Not pictured - Scot Dewitz, Rick Sprague, Eric Spooner, Josh Spooner, Derrick Leier and Kurt Russow.



YOUTH GROUP - back row - Jana Kemmet, Kandace Kemmet, Alan Kemmet, Justin Olson, Bradley Patzner, Kristine Kemmet. front row - Ashley Olson, Jennifer Hasse, and Derrick Leier. Not Pictured - Josh Spooner, Andrea Spooner, Eric Spooner and Scot Dewitz.



William Russow





Jon Monica Karl Pastor Larry Ruth Anna
Kovociny family - Christmas in Ukraine - '98

July 22, 1999

Dear friends in Christ,

I am so sorry that we were unable to join you for your celebration this Sunday. We pray that God will continue to pour down His blessings upon you, as He has in the past 75 years! We recall with fondness our walk together in the faith.

God be with you till we meet again!

The Kovociny family



Elton Strawn, Russow, Terry Kemmet, Lindell Kemmet, Allison Rudolph, Brett Strach, Bessie Strach, Linda Paterson, Marlene Kemmet, Gloria Kemmet, Beth Leiser, Kimberly Kemmet and Linda Rudolph



Betty Russow and Craig Kemmet

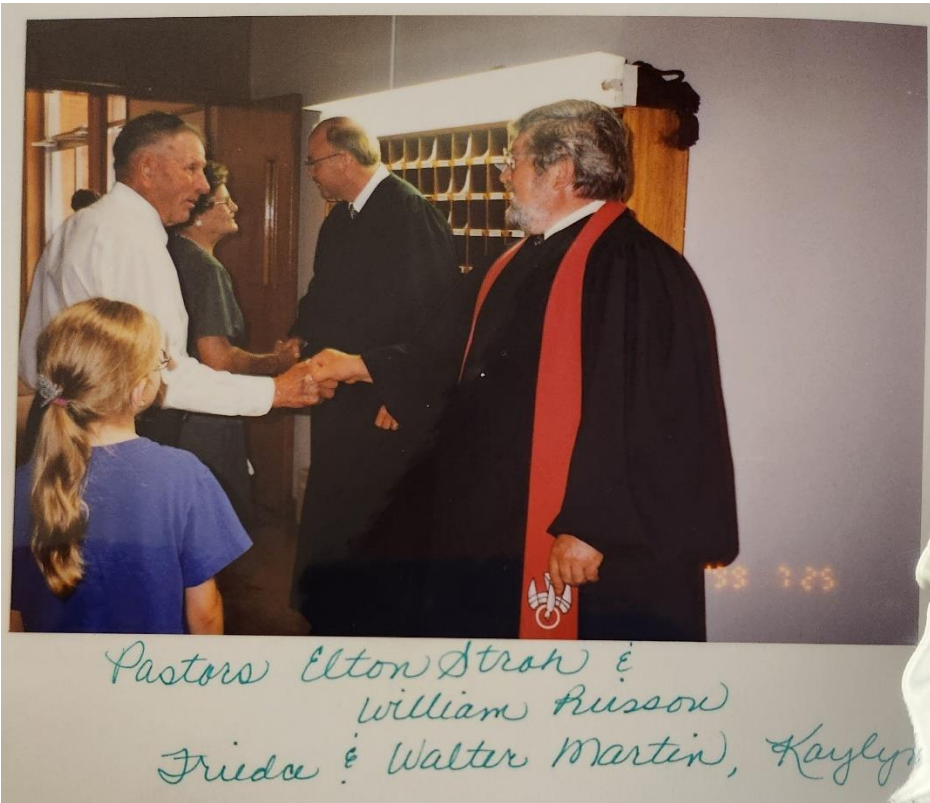
SPECIAL
MUSIC



Shirley Bory



Ashley Blean



*Pastors Elton Strach & William Russow
Frieda & Walter Martin, Kaylyn*

By God's Grace, a Continuing Mission in Tappen

In 2003, another Tappen community history book was prepared, to celebrate Tappen's 125th anniversary. The submission to that book for St. John's is reprinted at the end of this history, providing a snapshot of the congregation and its activities, at that time in our history.

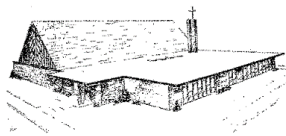
Other projects were undertaken in more recent years, although the precise dates are not now recalled. Harold Robinson donated new upper cupboards for the north side of the kitchen, built by the Tappen shop class. Later, the lower cupboards were also re-done, at the time the second stove was added. Justin Olson made a new wooden top for the old altar, with a cross inlaid in the wood. The old altar is now located on the west side of the fellowship hall.

Pastor Russow served at St. John's until 2007, when he accepted a retirement call to serve a congregation in Hot Springs, South Dakota. His fiftieth anniversary in the pastoral ministry was celebrated in 2017. He has returned to St. John's from time to time as a guest preacher and for funerals and special occasions. He served as our vacancy pastor in June 2023.

Pastor David Hein of Mandan served St. John's during the vacancy. Pastor David Schmidt was called to serve at St. John's by assignment from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. He was installed on July 15, 2007.

In the summer of 2008, air conditioning was installed in the church. This was made possible through memorial offerings given in memory of Walter and Frieda Martin.

Fifty Years of God's Grace



ST. JOHN'S
Evangelical Lutheran Church
TAPPEN, NORTH DAKOTA

★

Preacher: Pastor F. Mutterer
Liturgist: Pastor D. Schmidt

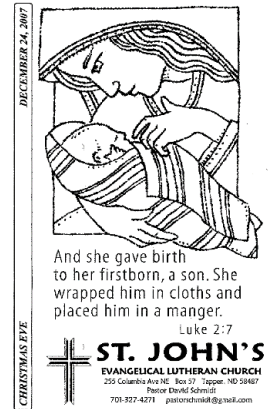
★

Church Building 50th Anniversary
November 22, 2009

On Friday, April 10, 2009, St. John's hosted a concert by the Honor Choir of Great Plains Lutheran High School, Watertown, S.D.

In November 2009, St. John's observed the 50th anniversary of the new church building. On Sunday, November 15, 2009, a special concert service, "Here We Stand," was presented, with guest organist Pastor Charles Bonow. The 50th Anniversary and Rededication Service was held on Sunday, November 22, 2009.

*From the Church Building 50th Anniversary
Service Bulletin:*



*Christmas Eve
2007*

The 50th Anniversary of the Church Building of St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
Anniversary and Rededication Service

The Hymns: "From All that Dwell Below the Skies"

"For Builders Bold Whose Vision Pure" "Now Thank We All Our God"

"For Many Years, O God of Grace" "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

The Old Testament: 1 Kings 8:22-30

The Epistle: Hebrews 10:19-25 The Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

Sermon Text and Theme: Exodus 20:24 & Matthew 18:20

"We Celebrate ... God's Promises and Our Experiences"

Guest Preacher: Pastor Frederick Mutterer Liturgist: Pastor David Schmidt

Organists: Kelly Schmidt and Delores Rath

Flowers on the altar given to the glory of God, in memory of Frieda and Walter
Martin and Adelia and August Doerr, by Dennis & Sandra Adams, Dale & Shirley
Berg, Alton & Gloria Kemmet, Richard and Rogene Moss, and Delores Rath.

50 Years of God's Grace



Pastor David W. Schmidt

A church building is a place for Christians to gather...

to hear God's Word proclaimed.

to receive the Sacraments.

to encourage each other in Christ's love.

A church building is a testimony of faith and confession...

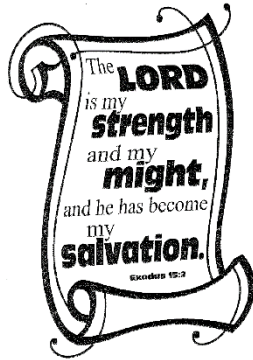
to the children of their parents and grandparents.

to the community.

to the world.

For fifty years, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church has met together in this building to be fed by God through His Word and Sacraments. It has been a place of rest and comfort in a turbulent world. It has been a place of thanksgiving and praise. It has been a place of adoration to the great God who gives us all good things in Jesus Christ our Savior. We thank God our Savior who has blessed this place of gathering, this testimony of faith and confession, this building dedicated as our house of worship. We thank God for his many blessings we have received here in the past fifty years. May God bless our future years of worship and witness in this church building.

Pastor Schmidt's message, included in the church directory published in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the new church building, 2009



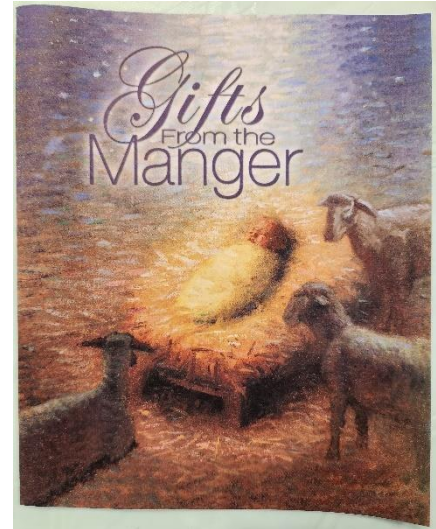

Joint Reformation Service
 The Rough Rider Circuit
 Western Conference
 Dakota-Montana District of the WELS

*Reformation
 2011*

On October 30, 2011, 4 p.m., St. John's hosted the Joint Reformation Service for the churches of the Rough Rider Circuit of the Western Conference of the Dakota-Montana District, Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Pastor Jordan Ertl from Our Saviour's in Bismarck preached on Isaiah 43:1-7, and Pastor Schmidt served as presiding minister.

On Saturday, March 17, 2012, St. John's hosted a concert of Christian hymnody presented by the WELS musical group *Koiné*. On July 24, 2013, St. John's hosted a concert of Christian music by the WELS musical group, *Branches Band*.

In 2014, after roughly three years of gathering special offerings and memorials, the peaked roof of the church was re-covered with steel shingles, at a cost of approximately \$50,000. Also during Pastor Schmidt's time here, Larry & Debbie Olson built and installed the new metal stalls in the women's restroom.



Children's Christmas Eve Service, 2013

On June 29, 2014, Pastor Schmidt announced that he had accepted a call to Grace Lutheran Church, Burke, SD. His farewell Sunday was held August 3, 2014.

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

Tappan, N.D. Dec 24, 7pm.
 Christmas Eve 2016



*Celebrating the
 500th Anniversary
 of the Lutheran
 Reformation*

Pastor Jordan Ertl, from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Bismarck, served as the vacancy pastor.

Pastor Gerhardt Juergens accepted the call to serve at St. John's. His installation service was held October 19, 2014.

P: In the name of the Father, the Son (†), and the Holy Spirit.
 C: Amen.

Opening Hymn 52: "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"

(All): ♯ 1. On Christmas night all Christians sing,
 To hear the news the angels bring:
 On Christmas night all Christians sing
 To hear the news the angels bring,
 News of great joy, news of great mirth,
 News of our merciful King's birth.

(Organ Solo): 2. When sin departs before your grace,
 Then life and health come in its place.

(Pulpit Solo): When sin departs before your grace,
 Then life and health come in its place.

(All): Angels and saints with joy may sing
 All for to see the newborn King.

(All) 3. From out of darkness we have light
 Which made the angels sing this night.
 From out of darkness we have light
 Which made the angels sing this night:
 "Glory to God and peace to men,
 Now and forevermore. Amen."

In 2015, the parsonage had air conditioning installed, new boilers were installed in the church, and another stall was added to the parsonage garage. In 2016, a new baptismal font was built for the church. Church sidewalks, the driveway at the parsonage, and basement egress windows at the parsonage were also completed in 2016. In 2017, new flooring was installed in every part of the church except the sanctuary.

*Children's Christmas Eve
 Service, 2016*

Pastor Juergens conducted monthly devotional services for the residents of Golden Manor care facility in Steele;

and this work continues to the present time. Between 2015 and 2020, St. John's provided "WILD" (Word in Love and Deed) on Wednesday afternoons, an after-school program for students at the Tappen Public School. In 2019, revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws of the congregation were adopted. New kitchen cabinets and hardwood flooring were also installed in the parsonage in 2019.

On August 30, 2019, St. John's again hosted a concert of Christian music by the WELS musical group *Branches Band*. On October 1, 2019, St. John's hosted the fall pastor's conference for the Western Conference of the Dakota-Montana District of WELS.



Confirmation 2023

Pastor Juergens served vacancies at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Jamestown and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Valley City, during portions of his time as pastor of St. John's. Christ the King closed on September 22, 2019. Some members of Christ the King transferred their membership to St. John's, after the Jamestown congregation closed.

In 2022, an updated sound system was installed in the church, and a patio was built on the north side of the parsonage, behind the garage. In 2023, new windows were installed on the west side of the church. At the parsonage, new carpeting was installed in several rooms, much of the interior was painted, and the inside of the garage was finished. Other projects of recent years included the construction of a new altar and baptismal font for the sanctuary, built by Pastor Juergens' brother-in-law.



Farewell Dinner for Pastor Juergens and family, May 21, 2023

In October 2022, Pastor Juergens received and accepted a call to serve as Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lakeside, Arizona. He deferred acceptance of the call and continued to serve at St. John's through May 2023. A farewell service for Pastor Juergens and his family was held May 21, 2023. During the vacancy of a few weeks which followed, Pastor William Russow served as vacancy Pastor.



Ordination and Installation of Pastor Karl DeMarce, July 16, 2023. Back Row: Pastors Gerald Geiger, Jordan Ullhorn, Eugene Roecker, Joel Prange. Front Row: Pastors Joshua Janke, Roger Neumann, Karl DeMarce, Daniel Sprain, Thomas Moldenhauer

In May 2023, Karl A.W. DeMarce, of Memphis, Missouri, was called and assigned to St. John's as a graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Pastor DeMarce was ordained and installed on July 16, 2023, with Pastor Roger Neumann of Grace Lutheran Church, Oskaloosa, Iowa, presiding and preaching for the ordination service.



Children's crafts at Summer Family Bible School, August 2023



*Pioneer Girls with leader
Beth Leier, October 2023*



*“Over 70s” Lunch,
November 2023*



*Children ready for procession into the church for
Children’s Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 2023*



Bowling fellowship outing at Imperial Lanes, Napoleon, February 2024

In 2024, Delores Rath donated the original organ that had been in the first church building back to St. John's, after having had it restored. This was the J.R. England pipe-reed pump organ, manufactured in Houston, Texas, which served the congregation from 1928 through 1950. The choir loft area was also retrofitted to serve as an additional Sunday School classroom space.



The organ from the first church building, restored and donated back to St. John's by Delores Rath



Confirmation 2024



*The Juergens family, back at
St. Johns, July 2024.
Sarah and Pastor Juergens;
Grace, Karis, Joshua, Hannah*

By God's grace, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tappen, North Dakota, continues active ministry to the present day. Sunday worship services are held at 10 a.m., with Sunday School and adult Bible study during the hour following worship from Labor Day through Memorial Day. St. John's is currently blessed to have two organists, Mrs. Beth Leier and Mrs. Corinne Muller.

St. John's holds the only Christmas Eve children's service in the local area, with approximately 200 people attending the evening services on December 24 in 2022 and 2023. Wednesday evening services are held during the Lenten season; and for the past several years, on the Wednesday of Holy Week, St. John's has conducted a Christian Passover Seder meal at 7 p.m., with WELS members from nearby congregations and other guests also attending. On Easter Sunday morning, we have a "Son-Rise" service, a breakfast, and a festival service.

Youth confirmation classes are held from September through May, with four young people having been confirmed in 2023 and four in 2024.

Bible Information Classes are also offered for adults interested in membership, or simply interested in learning more about the Christian faith.

Summer "Family Bible School" has been offered over three evenings, in 2022, 2023, and 2024, with between 15 and 25 children and between 10 and 15 adults participating each evening. The congregation also has a float every year in the Tappen Fall Harvest Fest Parade, on Saturday of Labor Day weekend, handing out water bottles and inviting the public to our Sunday worship services.

Since at least 1998, St. John's has aired the previous Sunday's sermon from 7 to 7:15 a.m. on KSJB 600 AM, Jamestown, N.D. Since 2009, St. John's Sunday morning worship service is recorded and televised on the local BEK TV communications network at 6 p.m. every Sunday evening, on channel 72. Services are also streamed live on YouTube, with videos of past services available for viewing. St. John's maintains a Facebook page and a web site, www.stjohnstappen.org.

St. John's is a congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, in the Rough Rider Circuit of the Western Conference of the Dakota-Montana District. The congregation is self-sufficient, with offerings covering all the expenses, and with ten percent of the budget going to support Congregational Mission Offerings. The congregation has no debt, and holds a \$100,000 CD at WELS Church Extension Fund. God's people support the gospel ministry at St. John's.

Throughout its history St. John's has served the Tappen area with faithful proclamation of God's Word of grace. Its pastors and lay leaders have always confessed the fact that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. St. John's also subscribes to the Lutheran Confessions and the confessional creeds of the Christian Church. God continues to pour out his grace since 1924, through the ministry of the Word and sacraments of St. John's Lutheran Church, Tappen, ND.

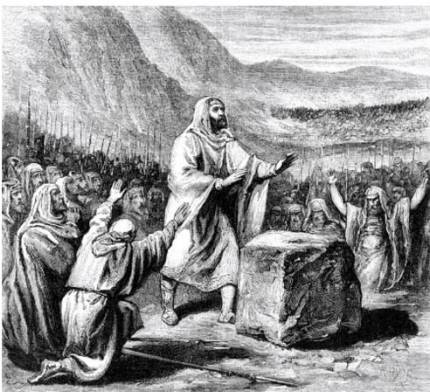
We, the members of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, united by our faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and only Savior, and our confession that the Bible is God's holy inerrant Word, use the gospel of Christ crucified in Word and Sacrament, to win the lost for Christ, to nurture one another in Christian love, and to equip God's people for lives of Christian worship and service, all to the glory of the holy LORD, our Triune God.

August 18, 2024: Giving Thanks for 100 Years of God's Grace

**Giving Thanks for 100 Years
of God's Grace**

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF TAPPEN, NORTH DAKOTA

August 18, 2024, 4:00 p.m.
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named that place Ebenezer, saying, "The LORD has helped us this far."

1 SAMUEL 7:12

On August 18, 2024, St. John's observed the 100th anniversary of our organization as a congregation. Approximately 170 members and friends gathered for a special afternoon service of thanksgiving and praise. Rev. Bill Russow, former pastor of St. John's, served as guest preacher. After the service, greetings were received from former pastors, Prof. Roger Kovaciny and Mr. Steven Steiner, and from Dakota-Montana District President Rev. Doug Free. Additional greetings were read; those letters are included at the end of this document.

A fellowship meal was served afterwards, and quite a few of those who had come to worship the Lord stayed to visit with friends old and new, well into the evening.

From the 100th Anniversary Service Bulletin:

The Hymns: “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

“We Give Thee But Thine Own”

“Now Thank We All Our God”

“Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise”

The Old Testament: Jeremiah 31:3–6, 10–14

The Psalm: Psalm 100

The Epistle: 3 John 2–4

The Gospel: Matthew 7:24–29

Sermon Text and Theme: 1 Samuel 7:12

“Ebenezer”

Guest Preacher: Pastor William H. Russow

Presiding Minister: Pastor Karl A.W. DeMarce

Organist: Corinne Muller

Photos from the 100th Anniversary Service and Fellowship Time Afterwards:



Pastors of St. John's and from sister congregations, in attendance at the centennial service.

Back row: Rev. D.T. (Tom) Rawerts, Aberdeen, SD; Rev. Gerald Geiger, Watertown, SD;

Mr. Steven Steiner (St. John's, 1984–1994), Waukesha, WI; Rev. Joshua Janke, Mandan, ND;

Rev. Thomas Moldenhauer, Bismarck, ND; Rev. Joel Prange, Dickinson, ND.

Front Row: Rev. William Russow (St. John's, 1994–2007), Hot Springs, SD; Rev. Karl DeMarce

(St. John's, 2023–present), Tappen, ND; Prof. Roger Kovaciny (St. John's, 1977–1984),

Waukegan, WI; Rev. Eugene Roecker, Hazelton, ND; Rev. Tony Hansen, Roscoe, SD;

Rev. Douglas Free, Rapid City, SD (WELS Dakota-Montana District President).



*Krista Reck,
granddaughter of Rev.
Eugene Hinderer (first
pastor of St. John's),
playing the original
church organ*



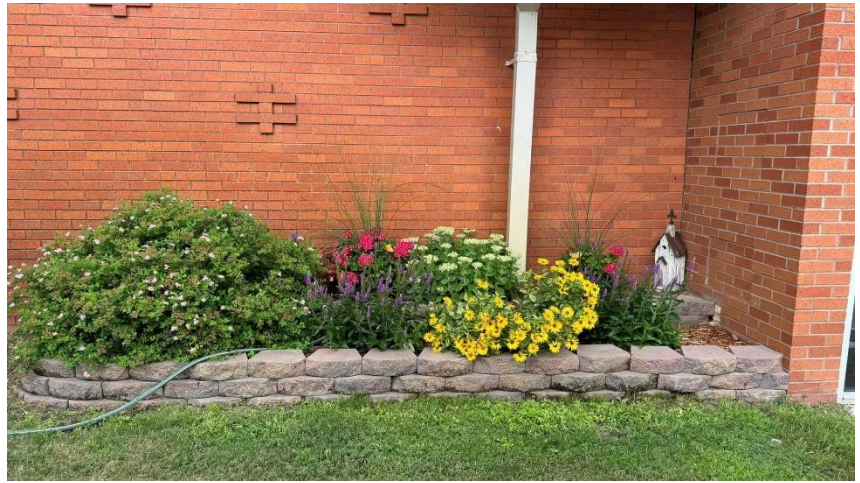
Gathered for worship, August 18, 2024, 4 p.m.



*Decorated cake, prepared
by Brenda DeMarce*



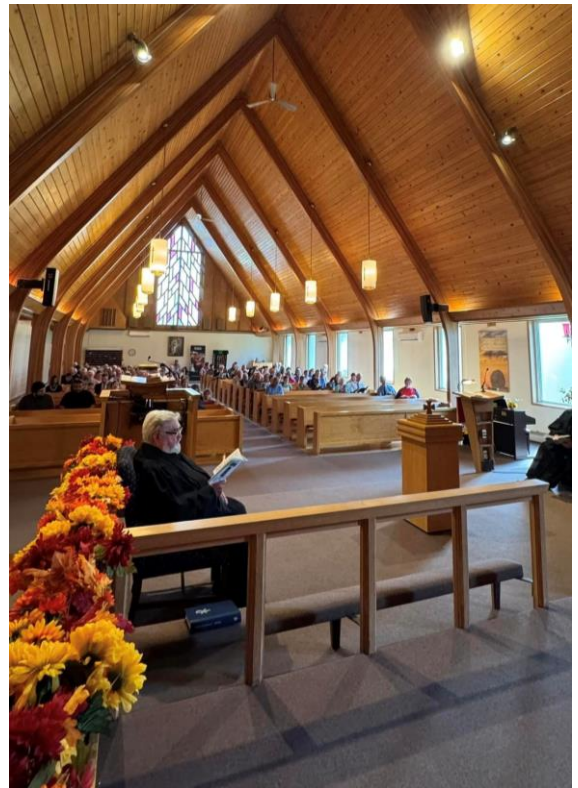
*Quilt made for Mrs. Hinderer when Pastor Hinderer
took the call away in 1938, embroidered with the
names of members of St. John's; displayed by Krista
Reck and Paula Heide-Poggenburg, granddaughters of
Pastor & Mrs. Hinderer*















Confirmed in the Christian Faith at St. John's

CONFIRMATION CLASSES:

Class of 1926 — Rev. Hinderer (confirmation held in Congregational Church). Loggy [Loge] Haadem, Harriet Haadem, Idella Wallner, Harold Wallner

Class of 1927 — Rev. Hinderer. Maggie [Magdalene] Teske, Bertha Haadem, Katie Stroh, Margaret Olson, Amelia Dockter, Adolph Stroh, Jake Lang, John Stroh, Edwin Geist, Reinhold Geist

Class of 1929 — Rev. Hinderer. William Dockter, Katie Lang, Arthur Dockter, Genevieve Olson, Walter Peterson

Class of 1930 — Rev. Hinderer. Tom Nelson, Mary Lang, Alice Hill, Frieda Geist, Helmer Nelson, Lea Teske, Anna Gross, Kenneth Hill

Class of 1931 — Rev. Hinderer. Frieda Dockter, Eunice Hauntz, Reuben Pfahl, Lucille Hauntz, Florence Erickson, George Kleven, Irwin Kleven, Olga Kleven, Inga Rudy

Class of 1932 — Rev. Hinderer. Walter Woodwick, Floyd and Kenneth Peterson, Edward Stroh, August Stroh, Jr., Rachel Wittmier, Doris Wallner, Rose Dockter, Hazel Peterson, Mary Oster, Rose Peterson, Bud [Walter] Tranmer, Donald Robinson, Perry Robinson, Virgil Wallner

Class of 1933 — Rev. Hinderer. Maggie Dockter, George Hopkins, Robert Ness, Arthur Gross, Alice Mills, Kenneth Mills

Class of 1935 — Mable Haadem, Melissa Hopkins, Otila Lang, Bertha Dockter, Magdalene Dockter, Mathilda Dockter, Bernard Wieland.

Class of 1936 — Rev. Hinderer. Oris Heiden, John Stroh, Eva Stroh, Emma Gross, Elsie Schettley, Isabel Trammer, Vernice Briese

Class of 1937 — Rev. Hinderer. Dorothy Trammer, Olga Buchholz, Cecil Wallner, Frieda Pfahl, Walter Hagel, Edwin Hagel, Ida Hagel, Emil Remmich, Tina Hagel, Philipina Geist, Helen Peterson, Reinold (Reiny) Lang, Amelia Geist, Mae Peterson, Irvin (Erwin) Wallner, Marcella (Marcilia) Mae Wallner, Ruth Gross, Ray Wallner

Class of 1938 — Rev. Hinderer. Clayton Maw, Albert Morlock, Eloise Robinson, Robert Janke, Ruth Teske, John Koehler, Marion Peterson, William Hurtle, Ruth Aipperspach, Floyd Peterson, Elmer Janke, Serena Harter, Alvina Morlock, Alvina Hurtle, Laura and Esther Hornung, Leona Weiland

Class of 1940 — Rev. Holzhausen. Peter Stroh, John Harman, Vernon Heiden, Adolph Pfahl, Emil Mueller, George Werre, Elmer Wolfe, Reinhold (Reiny) Hoff, Evelyn Peterson, Eileen Wolfe, Emma Stroh, Mary Stroh, Glenn Peterson

Class of 1941 — Rev. Holzhausen. Harry Janke, Byron Brenden, Carol Koehler, Mathilda Pfahl, Ardella Fanta, Leah Weiland

Class of 1942 — Rev. Holzhausen. Rueben Binder, Robert Harmann, Rueben Mueller, Rudolf Binder, Ellen Harter, Niomi Holzhausen

Class of 1943 — Rev. Holzhausen. Viola Binder, Beverly Wallner, Elsie Pfahl, Ruth Werre, Emma Stroh, Gerhardt Weiland, Virgil Heiden

Class of 1944 — Rev. Mehlberg. Harold Kalmbach, Elva Maw, Beverly Koestler, Violet Harter, Eldora Kemmet, Dennis Peterson, Genevieve Peterson, Betty Fanta, Lydia Hottman, Beverly Lang

Class of 1946 — Rev. Kettenacker. Harold Stroh, Ruth Maw, Warren Koehler, Arnold Hoff, Luella Kemmet, Ida Hottman, Charles Koestler, Alvin Werre, Ester Hottman

Class of 1948 — Rev. Kettenacker. Harold Binder, Delores Doerr, Evangeline Krueger, Marlene Fischer, Viola Iszler, Sharlotte Koehler, Bernice Kemmet, Gloria Martin, Marjorie Koestler, Alton Stroh, Quincy Maw, Emma Hottman, Maggie Stroh, Aurelia Krueger, Esther Binder, Alvin Geist

Class of 1950 — Rev. Schaller. Levone Koestler, Luella Werre, Alice Everding, Viona Stroh, Mary Lou and Juanita Kalmbach, Leonard Everding, Doris Binder, Delores Geist, Melvin Hoff

Class of 1952 — Rev. Otterstatter. Robert Kemmet, David Otterstatter, Hilbert Hagel, Beverly Kapp, Emma Hoff, Ivy Slaughter

Class of 1953 — Rev. Otterstatter. Leo Stroh, Cheryl Nelson, Vernon Everding

Class of 1954 — Rev. Otterstatter. Tilman Haadem, Harold Slaughter, Darold Lang, Ronald Kemmet, Elroy Haadem, Harriet Kalmbach, Lorraine Geist, Irene Hoff, Shirley Kapp, Laverle Binder

Class of 1955 — Rev. Otterstatter. Walter Werre, Gerry Hoffer, Delbert Iszler, Caroline Stroh, Marilyn Stroh, Delores Stroh

Class of 1956 — Rev. Otterstatter. Eugene Heiden, Merlyn Geist, Gloria Binder, Shirley Harter, Betty Geist

Class of 1957 — Rev. Otterstatter. Betty Kapp, Virginia Kalmbach, Judy Wallner, Shirley Martin, Jolene Everding, Rogene Doerr, Elaine Rott, Verdella Hust, Dennis Lang

Class of 1958 — Rev. H. Rutz (vacancy pastor). Marlys Kapp, Larry Rott, Leroy Hust, Virgil Harter, Daniel Rott, Curtis Kemmet, Robert Stroh, Clifford Kluth, Lucille Rott, Francis and Beryl Olson, Larry Lang, Art Stroh, Luella Kalmbach, Clifford Hust

Class of 1959 — Rev. Mutterer. Cora Wallner

Class of 1960 — Rev. Mutterer. Randy Kemmet, Julie Ann Hasse, Sandra Doerr, Janet Stroh, Mona Kay Haadem, Mary Lou Stroh

Class of 1961 — Rev. Mutterer. Phyllis Hoff, Loretta Lang, Gloria Kapp, Jean Harter, Arlene George, Larry Mertz, Larry George

Class of 1962 — Rev. M. Putz (vacancy pastor). June Stroh, Diane Rott, Janice George, Violet Kalmbach, Donald Krueger, Larry and Debbie Stroh, Connie Stroh, Wayne Lang

Class of 1963 — Rev. Klaszus. George Hopkins, Dennis Stroh, Jake Kapp, Donald Harter, Luella Mae Hins, Ruby Hoff, Wanda Slaughter, Linda Patzner, Lindes Stroh

Class of 1964 — Rev. Klaszus. Donavan Thornton, Jacqueline Krueger, Corrine Hottman, Francis Hopkins

Class of 1965 — Rev. Klaszus. Corwin Hins, Joel Hasse, Linda Maw, Gary Kalmbach, Lavern Chmielewski, Yvonne Stroh

Class of 1966 — Rev. Rothe (vacancy pastor). Jay Hoffer, Terry Kemmet, Robert Sprague, Lowell Hasse, Rodney Rudolph, Elton Stroh, Larry Olson, Jack Reuer, Galen Briese, Marcia Hopkins, Nanette Thornton, Fern Bauske, Gay Ann Haadem, Valerie Falk, Leona Slaughter, Lois Maw, Karen Stroh

Class of 1967 — Rev. Oelhafen. Charles Janke, Carl Denning, Roger Hasse, Guy Schiermeister, Myron Falk, Cynthia Hins, Rodney Thorsness

Class of 1968 — Rev. Oelhafen. Donald Rudolph, Bradley Thornton, Timothy Hins, Alan Janke, Dale Chmielewski, Mark Stroh, Clyde Slaughter, Jo Ann Krueger, Susan Hasse, Rita Rath

Class of 1969 — Rev. Oelhafen. Randy Reuer, Brian Thorsness, Randy Falk, Darlene Geist, Demryce Schiermeister, Linda Kapp, Kathi Maw, David Stroh, Patty Stroh

Class of 1970 — Rev. Kloehn. Betty George, Elaine Kleven, Karen George, Emilie Hasse, Nancy Dittel, Richard Wallner, JoAnne Sievert, Karen Kapp, Richard Reuer, Marvin Heiden, Wendell Thornton, Gerald Stroh, Donald Rangeloff, Ronnie Binder

Class of 1971 — Rev. Kloehn. Dale Kapp, Brook Rangeloff, Audrey Falk, Linda Reuer

Class of 1972 — Rev. Kloehn. Rueben Binder, Deborah Wallner, Audrie Rangeloff, Cornel Chmielewski, LeRoy Krueger, David Thorsness, Dennis Slaughter

Class of 1973 — Rev. Kloehn. Torrey Briese, Kirby Hins, Neil Nicholson, Craig Kemmet, Tammie Stroh, Alan Chmielewski, Curtis Rangeloff, Wade Devereaux, Nancy Maw

Class of 1974 — Rev. Kloehn. Dexter Demaray, Vincent Sprague, Tammy Slaughter, Forrest Rangeloff, Eric Rangeloff

Class of 1975 — Rev. Ellwein. Quintin Wallner, David Reuer, Brett Stroh, Kevin Falk, Barbara Rouse

Class of 1976 — Rev. Ellwein. Teddy Reuer, Cindy Hoff, Karla Briese, Carla Wallner, Lance Hins, Richard Rouse, Dennis Maw, Bryan Stroh, Mary Hoff, Karen Devereaux, Shannon Stroh, Carol Reuer

Class of 1977 — Rev. Ellwein. Sherry Mertz, Beth Nicholson, Bruce Thorsness, Melvin Reuer, Robert Rouse, Steve Chmielewski

Class of 1978 — Rev. Kovaciny. Daryl Slaughter, Darwin Demaray, David Lang, Jimmy White, Beth Stroh, Lori Maw, Paula Falk

Class of 1979 — Rev. Kovaciny. Brenda Maw, Corrina Haadem, Dean Stroh, LeRoy Robinson

Class of 1980 — Rev. Kovaciny. Dale Demaray, Roger Schroeder, Kerry Slaughter, Shelly Stroh, Ronald Reuer, Brett Mertz, Brent Stroh

Class of 1981 — Rev. Kovaciny. Roger Iszler, Brenda Robinson, Jerry Kapp, Barbara Lang, David Maw

Class of 1982 — Rev. Kovaciny. Trent Haadem, Steve Lang, Sherri Iszler, Dennis Lang

Class of 1983 — Rev. Kovaciny. Steve Kapp, Jesse Kapp, Susan Maw

Class of 1984 — Rev. Steiner. Skye Roemmick, Carmel Wall, Donald Weikum, Cory Lang, Dennis Sprague, Wade Kemmet, Lesley Bauer, Arnold Reuer

Class of 1985 — Rev. Steiner. Douglas Demaray, Dawn Berg

Class of 1986 — Rev. Steiner. Romelle Roemmick, Len Wall, Tom Sprague, Michelle Kapp, Tracy Bodvig

Class of 1987 — Rev. Steiner. Terrill Slaughter, Lynn Slaughter, Paula Kapp, Darnell Demaray, Ryan Kemmet, Dale Lang

Class of 1988 — Rev. Steiner. Brian Slaughter, Jamie Sprague, Dawn Mertz, Troy Rudolph, Deanna Berg

Class of 1989 — Rev. Steiner. Travis Bodvig, Bobbi Sprague, Jason Slaughter, Christy Kapp

Class of 1990 — Rev. Steiner. James Kapp, Kyle Kemmet, Allen Rudolph, Tammy Rudolph, Rebecca Hasse, Joanne Iszler

Class of 1991 — Rev. Steiner. Kimberly Kemmet, Michael Berg, Kent Stroh, Dale Priebe

Class of 1992 — Rev. Steiner. Joshua Marzolf, Jason Iszler, Brian Patzner

Class of 1993 — Rev. Steiner. Karissa Hasse, Kami Rangeloff

Class of 1994 — Rev. Steiner. Kandace Kemmet, Lindell Kemmet, Zane Hins, Erica Kapp, Laura Hasse, Wendy Reuer

Class of 1995 — Rev. Russow. Ricky Sprague, Joshua Spooner, Jon Kapp, Tennille Bodvig

Class of 1996 — Rev. Russow. Amy Weikum, Alan Kemmet, Ross Hasse, Andrea Spooner, Bradley Patzner, Justin Olson, Scott Kinnischtzke

Class of 1997 — Rev. Russow. Skye Binder, Daniel Priebe, Jana Kemmet, Scot Dewitz, Candace Hins, Kurt Russow, Jennifer Hasse, Jessica Maw, Karrissa Marzolf, Tessa Briese

Class of 1998 — Rev. Russow. Ashley Olson

Class of 1999 — Rev. Russow. Kristine Kemmet, Eric Spooner, Derrick Leier

Class of 2000 — Rev. Russow. Trista Briese, Amanda Maw

Class of 2001 — Rev. Russow. Justin Haadem, Maggie Larson, Laura Leier, Chris Nicholson

Class of 2002 — Rev. Russow. Ryan Arndt, Tiffany Ann Bauer, Cassandra Maw, Erin Rudolph, Scott Stroh

Class of 2003 — Rev. Russow. Tony Larson, James Leier, Cody Slaughter, Trevor Demaray, Thomas Nicholson, Kaylyn Stroh, Jacob Stroh, Jared Demaray,

Class of 2004 — Rev. Russow. Kami Slaughter, Amanda Nicholson, Kip Haadem, Alexis Kapp, Evan Briese

Class of 2005 — Rev. Russow. Dustin Bauer, Shantel Slaughter, Shauna Slaughter, Jason Stroh

Class of 2006 — Rev. Russow. Alicia Demaray, Wesley Nicholson

Class of 2007 — Rev. Russow. Tate Demaray, Austin Engdahl, Norman Nicholson

Class of 2008 — Rev. Schmidt. Derek Engdahl

Class of 2009 — Rev. Schmidt. Tia Briese, Jordan Demaray, Taylor Demaray, Toshia Nienow, Ben Stroh, David Stroh, Sara Stroh

Class of 2010 — Rev. Schmidt. Aubrie Demaray, Michael Nienow, Mary Nicholson

Class of 2011 — Rev. Schmidt. Hudson McHenry, Jenna Nicholson, Nikolas Saylor

Class of 2012 — Rev. Schmidt. Kailee Binder, Racheal Stroh, Miranda Ziegler

Class of 2013 — Rev. Schmidt. Hayden McHenry, Daniel Nicholson, Alec Stroh

Class of 2014 — Rev. Schmidt. Justin Dockter

Class of 2015 — Rev. Juergens. Colton Stroh, Dillon Stroh

Class of 2016 — Rev. Juergens. Makenna Binder, Bradyn Lachenmier

Class of 2017 — Rev. Juergens. Ryan Nicholson

Class of 2018 — Rev. Juergens. Marshel Briese, Brock Nicholson,

Class of 2019 — Rev. Juergens. Jacey Binder, Alyssa Dockter, Dylan Lachenmier

Class of 2020 — Rev. Juergens. Grace Nicholson

Class of 2021 — Rev. Juergens. Grace Juergens

Class of 2022 — Rev. Juergens. Hannah Juergens, Donaven Martin

Class of 2023 — Rev. Juergens. Keylee Bodvig, Treyson Lang, Britta Madcke, Cora Muller

Class of 2024 — Rev. DeMarce. Keagan Bodvig, Kyler Maw, Layne Millage, Sophia Riederer

Note: If anyone should discover any omissions, spelling errors in names, or errors in dates in this listing, please let the pastor know, so that we might correct our records. Where two different spellings of names appear in our records, one form is given above in parentheses.

Serving at St. John's in 2024

We have no way to recognize individually, everyone who volunteers for various activities and serves in the church in many different ways — nor do we have any way to recognize or to adequately thank all who have volunteered and served in the past. But all of you are known to the Lord! We give thanks to God for all who have served, and for all who continue to serve now. To God be the glory!

St. John's Church Council

Brett Stroh, President	Pete Martin, Secretary
Brent Stroh, Treasurer	
Craig Kemmet, Elder	Justin Haadem, Elder
Shawn Stroh, Trustee	Loren Muller, Trustee

Sunday School Faculty

Beth Leier, Superintendent	Shauna Barnick
Shantel Johnson	Linda Rudolph
Corinne Muller (Music)	

Organists

Beth Leier	Corinne Muller
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Ladies' Aid

Cindy Hasse, President	Beth Leier, Secretary
------------------------	-----------------------

Church Cleaning Coordinator

Shauna Barnick

Pastors Who Have Served God's People at St. John's

Pastors who were installed as the resident pastor at St. John's are listed in **bold type**. Vacancy pastors who served our congregation, whose names appear in our records, are listed in ordinary type. Our records may not be complete with regard to all the vacancy pastors who have served us.

Rev. Samuel Baer, Streeter, ND (mission pastor), July 1920 – Spring 1921
Rev. Carl Strassen, Streeter, ND (mission pastor), April 1921 – May 1923
Rev. Eugene Hinderer, September 1923 – December 1938
Rev. Edward H. Krueger, Mandan, ND (vacancy), January–May 1939
Rev. William Holzhausen, May 1939 – January 1943
Rev. O.W. Heier, Jamestown, ND (vacancy), January–February 1943
Rev. E.L. Mehlberg, February 1943 – August 1944
Rev. Edward H. Krueger, Mandan, ND (vacancy), August–October 1944
Rev. Ruben Kettenacker, October 1944 – February 1948
Rev. Loren Schaller, Summer 1948 – May 1951
Rev. Edward J. Otterstatter, June 1951 – December 1957
Rev. Helmuth E. Rutz, Jamestown, ND (vacancy), January–June 1958
Rev. Frederick Mutterer, June 1958 – 1961
Rev. Roland Zimmerman, Bismarck, ND, and Rev. Marvin Putz, Valley City, ND
(vacancy), 1961 – April 1963
Rev. Ernst Klaszus, April 1963 – May 1965
Rev. George Rothe, Bismarck, ND (vacancy), May 1965 – July 1966
Rev. Walter Oelhafen, Jr., July 1966 – June 1969
Rev. George Rothe, Bismarck, ND (vacancy), June–July 1969
Rev. Russell W. Kloehn, July 1969 – November 1974
Rev. Henry Ellwein, January 1975 – June 1977
Rev. Roger Kovaciny, July 1977 – January 1984
Rev. Allen W. Gumm, Hazelton, ND (vacancy), January–March 1984
Rev. Steven Steiner, March 1984 – July 1994
Rev. James A. Fricke, New Ulm, MN (vacancy), July–December 1994
Rev. William H. Russow, December 1994 – 2007
Rev. David Hein, Mandan, ND (vacancy), Summer 2007
Rev. David W. Schmidt, July 2007 – August 2014
Rev. Jordan Ertl, Bismarck, ND (vacancy), August – October 2014
Rev. Gerhardt H. Juergens, October 2014 – May 2023
Rev. William H. Russow, Hot Springs, SD (vacancy), June–July 2023
Rev. Karl A.W. DeMarce, July 2023 – Present

St. John's Pastors



Pastor Hinderer
1923-1938



Pastor Holzhausen
1939-1943



Pastor Mehlberg
1943-1944



Pastor Kettenacker
1944-1948



Pastor Schaller
1948-1951



Pastor Otterstatter
1951-1957



Pastor Rutz
1957-1958 Vacancy



Pastor Mutterer
1958-1961



Pastor Putz
1962 Vacancy



Pastor Klauszus
1963-1965



Pastor Rothe
1965-1966 Vacancy



Pastor Oelhafen
1966-1969



Pastor Kloehn
1969-1974



Pastor Ellwein
1974-1977



Pastor Kovaciny
1977-1984



Pastor Steiner
1984-1994



Pastor Fricke
1994 Vacancy



Pastor Elton Stroh
Son of
Congregation Members



Pastor Alvin Werre
Son of
Congregation Members

Other vacancy pastors (no pictures available) – Pastor Zimmerman, Pastor Heier, and Pastor E. H. Krueger

Pastors of St. John's — from the 75th anniversary booklet, 1999

Letters of Greeting Received on the Occasion of St. John's 100th Anniversary

From Pastor and Verona Kloehn:

Pastor Russell & Verona Kloehn
2407 Krause Road
Onalaska, WI 54650

August 18, 2024
St. John Lutheran Church
Pastor Karl DeMarce
P.O. Box 57
Tappen, North Dakota 58057

Dear Members of St. John Lutheran Church,

“This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it,” Psalm 118:24. A building is just a building, but what is done in it is the important thing. All glory be to God that He has given you the privilege and the opportunity in your place of worship to regularly hear His pure inerrant Word, to receive His sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, to sing His praises and to go to him in prayer. What priceless blessings!

My wife and I join with you on this day in giving thanks to God for His grace, love, and mercy that He has shown your congregation for 100 years. We have many fond memories of our time that we spent with you—your welcoming of our young family, your generosity, and your faith that was witnessed in how you lived your lives.

May God continue to bless you as you join the Psalmist with the words, “Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness,” Psalm 115:1.

In our Savior’s Name,

*Pastor & Verona
Kloehn*

Pastor & Verona Kloehn

From Pastor Elton Stroh:



Assisting God's People with Pursuing His Mission

July 27, 2024

Pastor Karl DeMarce
P.O. Box 57
255 Columbia Avenue NE
Tappen, North Dakota 58487

Dear Pastor DeMarce and members and friends of St. John's:

"Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens." (Psalm 150:1)

Celebrating a church's centennial matters because it's a special occasion during which we look back a whole century, recount our Lord's awesome blessings, and thank him for his endless love and forgiveness. Pausing to reflect on so many years of God's grace is important, incredibly valuable, and likely humbling for each celebrant.

How awesome is our God that he has preserved his truth at St. John's for 100 years! Through his law he called generations of sinners to repentance, and through his means of grace – the gospel in Word and Sacrament – he declared forgiveness to all and comforted all who believed.

Of course, those who are currently celebrating St. John's centennial have the solemn obligation and the tremendous privilege to remain faithful to God's Word and sacraments and to share Jesus passionately with those who do not yet rely on him as their Savior or no longer have a church they call home. This, of course, has always been and continues to be the mission of St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church.

I'm deeply grateful to St. John's for helping to raise me to know, love, and share Jesus; I'm grateful to St. John's for encouraging me to become a pastor; and, I'm grateful to St. John's for just being there and having open doors and members with loving hearts on those rare occasions when I travel to North Dakota and gather with fellow believers to worship our Savior.

On this special day of thanksgiving and praise, the Centennial Celebration of St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church...

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord." (Psalm 150:6)

Oh, and some quick remembrances.

1. I fondly recall regularly sitting with my family near the front of the church on the pulpit side and my dad tapping his toe when he sang hymns.
2. I lamentingly recall (when I was a kid) sometimes falling asleep during the sermon and, on one occasion, jumping to my feet when I heard the pastor loudly shout "AMEN!" in the middle of his sermon. That ended nap time during worship.
3. I regrettably recall getting into trouble during a Sunday School class. The way I remember it, someone called Terry (with the last name Kemmet), suggested we pull the chair out from under an unsuspecting girl as she sat down. Neither the teacher nor my parents thought that was very funny, and, of course, it wasn't. Children, are you listening?
4. I unpleasantly recall standing in front of the congregation and struggling to recite my part during the Christmas program, but I'm thankful I was compelled to face my fear of public speaking then to help me overcome it later.
5. Finally, I affectionately recall being encouraged by Pastor Frederick Mutterer and inspired by Pastor Walter Oelhafen to become a pastor.

In Jesus,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elton".

Pator Elton C. Stroh, D.Min.
Director/Consultant, Crossroads Consulting Ministry
elton.stroh@timeforcrossroads.com ■ phone: 608-837-3819
251 Luther Drive ■ Sun Prairie, WI 53590-1310

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
201 N State Street, New Ulm, MN 56073
Office: 507.354.3641 Fax: 507.354.1195
Email: church@splnewulm.org
Website: splnewulm.org



**ST PAUL'S
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL**

St. Paul's Lutheran School
126 S Payne Street, New Ulm, MN 56073
Office: 507.354.2329 Fax: 507.354.3893
Email: school@splnewulm.org
Website: splnewulm.org/school

August 7, 2024

St. John Lutheran Church
% Pastor DeMarce
PO Box 57
Tappen, North Dakota 58487

Dear Brothers & Sisters at St. John's,

Congratulations on celebrating your 100-year anniversary of God's Grace. What an amazing milestone, blessed by our Savior Jesus Christ. We continue to pray for the Christian growth of St. John's and that God keeps your families in His amazing Grace.

Greetings from your neighbors in Minnesota, where I serve as a WELS pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Ulm along with my wife Christine and have been a pastor for 30+ years. For those unfamiliar with our last name, my father Pastor Walter Oelhafen (and mother Gretchen) served at St. John's from his assignment from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 1966 to 1969. I was baptized at St John's in 1967 and my sister Kris was baptized there in 1969 so we are proud children of the congregation (along with many others 😊). My parents have many fond memories of the congregation and often encouraged us (and many others) for ministry by assuring us at least 10,000 times that God's people will be wonderful to work with just like the good members of St. John's – and they were right. Perhaps you know that my father went to heaven in 2020 after being in pastoral ministry for 50+ years. We thank God that it all started in Tappen.

You might be interested to know that our son Stephen was ordained as a (fourth generation) pastor in Menomonie, Wisconsin and was assigned in the same pastoral class as my sister Kris' son Pastor Jared Lindemann AND more importantly, your own current Pastor DeMarce – small WELS world. And Stephen with his wife Rebecca are soon expecting a baby – who knows ... maybe another future called worker?

While we will be unable to be with you on your special day due to ministry responsibilities, know we keep you in our continual thoughts and prayers. May our gracious LORD and Savior watch between us until our paths cross again. God be with you and to Him be the glory!

Peace in Jesus,

Scott + Oelhafen Family

Pastor Scott Oelhafen

Roger Neumann (Grace)

August 16, 2024
9:01 AM (22 minutes
ago)

Dear Members and Friends of St. John's Lutheran Church,

God has richly blessed you with opportunity to worship, hear the gospel's good news of salvation through the merits and sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and to receive the sacraments as God has commanded them to be administered through his Word, for these 100 years. All praise and glory be to God!

Your fellow Christians at Grace Lutheran, Oskaloosa, IA send our love in Christ, to each and everyone of you. We are one in mission, one in faith, and are truly ones who have been blessed. May God grant many more years of faithfulness to His Word as you reach out to the lost with the greatest news that they can possibly hear, "Jesus came to save sinners."

We give thanks to God for faithful Shepherds, past and present, and leaders who have held on to the truths of God's Word and made them to be your guide and rule.

God be with you today, and always.

**In Christ,
Pastor Roger Neumann and
Members of Grace Lutheran Church, Oskaloosa, IA**

St. John's Pages from the Tappen Centennial Book, 1978

Steele and Lake Williams as the missions. Tuttle was made a mission to McClusky, N. D.

Improvements were made in the rectory during 1960. The old wooden floor of the basement of the church was ripped out in the fall of 1963 and a cement floor was poured. At the same time a new kitchen was built with running water. Again this work was done entirely by the people of the parish.

This is the latest improvement that has been made in the Tappen parish to the present date.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

In the year 1919 the Joint Synod of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and other states convened at Mankato, Minnesota. Rev. Phillip Koehler of Ironridge, Wisconsin attended this meeting in regards to a Lutheran church being started at



The First Lutheran Church

Tappen, North Dakota. After this meeting Rev. Koehler visited his brothers, Erich and John Koehler in Tappen and received their support in starting a mission congregation in Tappen.

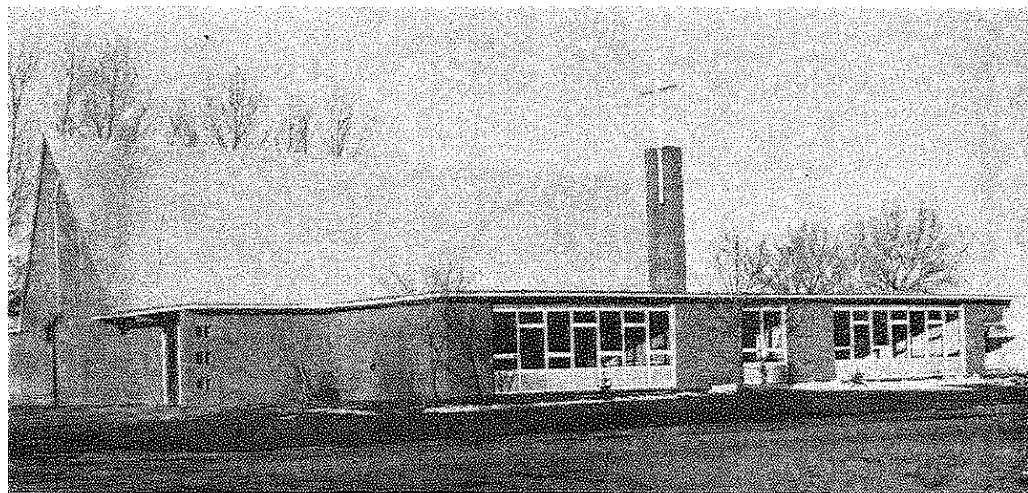
In the spring of 1920, Fred and William Wallner settled in Tappen vicinity adding two

more Lutheran families. In July of the same year the Tappen vicinity was canvassed by pastors A. W. Fuerstenau and S. Baer; the latter being the Lutheran pastor at Streeter, North Dakota. After this canvassing, Tappen was added to his territory, which already included Hazelton and Hartford congregations. He served these congregations until the spring of 1921. The territory was divided and Tappen and Streeter were served by Pastor C. Strassen from the spring of '21 until May of '23' when Pastor Eugene Hinderer began his ministry. Pastor Hinderer was installed September 2, 1923 in a forenoon service at Streeter and an afternoon service at Tappen.

The mission Board recommended that Pastor Hinderer live at Tappen instead of the rural parsonage near Streeter. This caused some hard feeling with some of the Streeter Congregation.

The congregation at Tappen was organized and adopted the name of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in January 1924. The following signed the constitution: E. H. Koehler, L. H. Wallner, William Wallner, Fred Wallner and William Briese. L. H. Wallner served as the first President of the newly organized congregation, E. H. Koehler as treasurer and William Wallner as secretary.

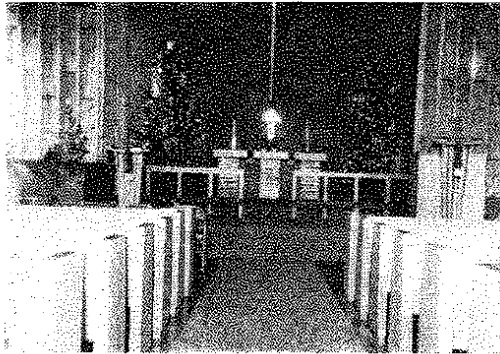
Services were held in the Congregational Church until the spring of 1926, when it was decided to build a church of their own. The new church was dedicated July 26, 1926. The parsonage was built in August of the same year and the following year the garage was built. Pastor Hinderer served these congregations until 1938 when he left for Bristol, Wisconsin. Since then St. John's has been served by the following Pastors: Wm. P. Holzhausen, E. L. Melberg, R. A. Kettner, Loren Schaller, E. J. Otterstater, F. Mutterer and Ernest Klauszus. At the time of this writing in the fall of '65, St. John's is being served by vacancy Pastor George Rothe of Bismarck.



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH — Taken shortly after completed in 1959.

St. John's outgrew their original church and in April of 1959 ground was broken for a new House of God, with guest speakers Pastor S. Baer and Loren Schaller. The new church was dedicated the first Sunday in Advent, November 29, 1959. Three services were held with Pastors Kettenacher, Donald Kolander and Martin Janke as guest speakers.

The new church is of contemporary design and is built entirely above ground. The exterior is faced with Hebron brick while the interior is made of light weight masonry blocks. The entire roof is made up of laminated beams and trusses. The back wall of the chancel is also of Hebron brick to typify the solidity of our Lutheran Heri-



Interior of St. John's Church

tage. A large cedar cross is suspended from this wall above the altar. The remainder of the building consists of a large assembly room, kitchen, smaller meeting room, boiler rooms, lavatories and a large sacristy study. Many willing hands of nearly every congregation member helped build this house of worship.

Present Church council members are: President, Quincy Maw; Secretary, Harold Wallner; Treasurer, Walter Martin; Financial Secretary, Ed Gimble and Building Fund Treasurer, August Doerr. Church Trustees: Alton Kemmet, Clayton Maw, and Clarence Hasse. Those serving on the stewardship committee are: Clarence Slaughter, Louie Chmielewski, Richard Vellenga, Anton Iszler and Virgil Heiden. There are 70 families and 187 communicant members. Stanley Chmielewski is the Sunday School Superintendent and there are 110 children enrolled. Mrs. Adam Koestler is the Sunday School Treasurer. The Sunday School teachers are: Stanley Chmielewski and Dennis Duin and the Messers. Ervin Thornton, Alton Kemmet, Dennis Duin, Edward Rudolph, Clarence Hasse, Clayton Maw, Marvin Thorsness, Richard Vellenga and Donald Rangehoff.

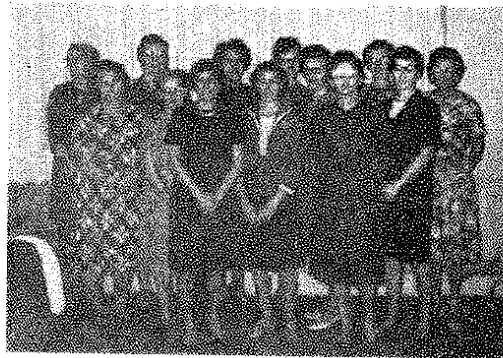
St. John's is proud of their first son of the church to enter the Holy Ministry, Alvin Werre. Pastor Werre received his education in the church schools at Watertown and the seminary at East Mequon, Wisconsin. Pastor Werre was ordained and commissioned as a missionary in

his home church July 20, 1958. He served in Nigeria and Northern Rhodesia, Africa and at present serves the Lord at Altura, Minnesota.

The St. John's Ladies Aid was organized July 21, 1932 with Mrs. Eugene Hinderer as hostess. The object of this society was to foster Christian fellowship among its members, to perform works of charity, to provide for embellishment of the church and to raise money for Home and Foreign Missions and the benefit of our own congregation. Some of the charter members were: Mrs. Eugene Hinderer, Mrs. E. H. Koehler, Mrs. J. L. Woodwick, Mrs. Perry Robinson, Mrs. John DeWitz, Mrs. L. H. Wallner, Mrs. Fred Wallner, Mrs. William Wallner, Mrs. Elmer Hopkins, Mrs. John Erickson, Mrs. George Fanta and Mrs. Oberlander.

The following are the present members: Mrs. August Doerr, Mrs. Louie Chmielewski, Mrs. Stanley Chmielewski, Mrs. Adam Hoff, Mrs. Donald Hasse, Mrs. Clarence Hasse, Mrs. Alton Kemmet, Mrs. Walter Martin, Mrs. Clayton Maw, Mrs. Ira Maw, Mrs. Russel Olsen, Mrs. Ervin Thornton and Mrs. Marvin Thorsness.

St. John's Ladies Aid



Mrs. Ira Maw, Mrs. Donald Hasse, Mrs. Clarence Hasse, Mrs. Alton Kemmet, Mrs. Marvin Thorsness, Mrs. Russel Olson, Mrs. Walter Martin - front row: Mrs. Adam Hoff, Mrs. Stanley Chmielewski, Mrs. Clayton Maw, Mrs. Louie Chmielewski, Mrs. August Doerr and Mrs. Ervin Thornton.

ZION EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHERN CHURCH — TAPPEN, N. D.

"We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints."

Thus did the Apostle Paul express himself as he wrote to the Christian Church at Colossae. The same would express the feeling of immigrant groups who knew the Lord upon their arrival in this country, upon hearing of others who had come to know the Lord in the new birth experience. One of their first desires then was to have fellowship together in the Name of Christ. Thus in 1907 three families to the south of Tappen began to meet together on the Lords day

St. John's Pages from the Tappen 125th Anniversary Book, 2003

was installed in the church basement. The basement walls were paneled in 1984. Steel siding was put on the church while Father Heusch was pastor.

In 1983 Father Heusch was transferred and Father Gerald McCarthy was the pastor until 1991 when Father Thomas Krupich came.

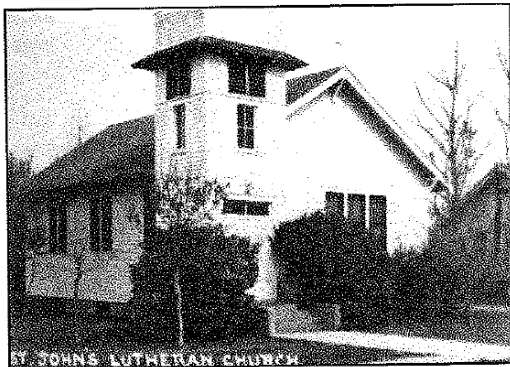
Lawn sprinklers were added to the lawn between the house and church in 1992. Upon completion of the lawn project, a permanent flower bed was made in front of the grotto.

Because of the high water table which started in 1993, drain tile was installed in the house basement in 2000, along with lifting and supporting the walls. After the completion of the basement, the upstairs of the house was redone. The outside of the parish house was painted and new shingles were put on.

In the summer of 2002, the Tappen parish became a mission of St. Francis de Sales Church in Steele with the transfer of the priest's residence to Steele.

After eleven years, Father Krupich was transferred to Grand Forks and Father Jerome Hunkler became pastor of the three parishes.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



The First Lutheran Church

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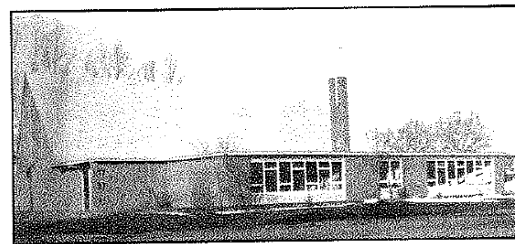
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St. John's Lutheran Church — Taken shortly after completion in 1959

God, with guest speakers Pastor S. Baer and Loren Schaller. The new church was dedicated the first Sunday of Advent, November 29, 1959. Three services were held with Pastors Kettenacher, Donald Kolander and Martin Janke as guest speakers.

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laminated beams and trusses. The back wall of the chancel is also of Hebron brick to typify the solidity of our Lutheran Heritage. A large cedar cross is suspended from this wall above the Alter. The remainder of the building consists of a large assembly room, kitchen, smaller meeting room, boiler room, lavatories and a large sacristy study. Many willing hands of nearly every congregation member helped build this house of worship.

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Interior of St. John's Church

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In 1969 a mortgage burning service was held and a new Rogers organ was dedicated. During the time, Russel Kloehn was the Pastor. In 1971 the old parsonage was sold to David Hagel, which is now the Doug Kramlich farmstead. The new parsonage was built and dedicated on November 28.

In 1974 the church celebrated its 50th anniversary. In 1994, Fay and John Hoffer estate bequeathed a substantial amount of money and extensive remodeling was done inside and out during the time Steve Steiner served our congregation. In 1992 a new Allen organ was dedicated with Professor Birsching acting as organist and recitalist.

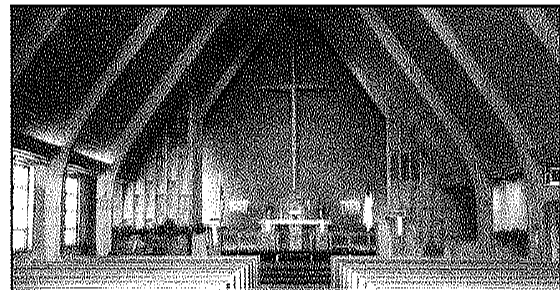
We are proud of the two sons of our congregation.

Rev. Alvin Werre was ordained into the Holy Ministry at Tappen on July 20, 1958 and served as a missionary in Nigeria and Rhodesia, Africa. He was called to his heavenly home on January 31, 2000. Another son, Elton Stroh was ordained and installed at Gethsemene Lutheran Church in Kansas City, MO. He is presently serving as Parish Assistant in Milwaukee, WI.

We celebrated the 75th Anniversary of our church in July 1999. The guest speakers for this special event were former Pastor Russell Kloehn and son of the congregation, Pastor Elton Stroh.

Since the last Tappen Anniversary book printed in 1978, pastors that have served this congregation are: Pastor Steven Steiner from 1984 to 1994. Pastor James Fricke served the vacancy in 1994 and our current pastor is William Russow serving here since December of 1994. Our membership total 213 communicants and 275 souls.

Our Church Council members are: Bryan Stroh, President; Craig Kemmet, Secretary; Neil Nicholson,



St. John's Interior - 2002

Financial Secretary; Brent Stroh, Treasurer; Trustees are Jaime Larson and Roger Hasse. Elders are Duane Spooner and Brett Stroh. Organizations of our church include: Bible Class, Sunday School, Youth Group, Ushers, Ladies Aide, Senior Choir, Junior Choir, and Little Lamb Choir.

BIBLE CLASS has about 12 in attendance who pursue the study of Scripture over coffee under the guidance of our Pastor.

SUNDAY SCHOOL numbers 47 children. Our Superintendent/Treasurer is Alton Stroh. Our coordinator of materials is Kris Stroh. Teachers are: Brett Stroh, Linda Rudolph, Beth Leier, Kris Stroh, Christopher Nicholson, Derek Leier, and Amanda Maw as helper. Our Confirmation Class gives special instructions to our 7th and 8th graders for two years taught by our Pastor. Helper is Bonney Stroh.

CHURCH ORGANISTS are Marlene Kemmet, Beth Leier, Ashley Olson, Shirley Berg, and Betty Russow. Our children who can play piano are

encouraged to play for special parts of the service in hopes that they one day will become a church organist.

YOUTH GROUP is headed by our Pastor and Cindy Hasse. Other mothers also help with this organization which meets regularly with the goal of providing teens Bible Study, community service, and Christian fellowship with planned activities.

LADIES AIDE meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 8 pm. Bible Class led by our pastor is always part of the meeting along with a business meeting and lunch. Ladies take turns serving as officers of this organization.



Present Ladies Aide Members at St. John's Lutheran Church

Back: Pam Rudolph, Judy Haadem, Bonney Stroh, Gloria Kemmet, Betty Russow, Cindy Hasse, Emma Stroh, Theresa Chmielewski Front: Kris Stroh, Pastor Russow and Caroline Maw, Debbie Olson - not pictured.

CHOIRS number 3. Our Senior Choir is directed by Betty Russow, our Junior Choir is directed by Linda Rudolph, and our Little Lamb Choir is directed by Betty Russow and Kris Stroh. Accompanists are Ashley Olson and Beth Leier.

Each summer Vacation Bible School is held with about 40 children present. It is staffed with 4 to 6 teachers and helpers. The Vacation Bible School children have enjoyed a special music class led by Mark Kresbach with his guitar and his wife, Bina, helping direct the children. The children meet for 5 days learning Bible Stories and making craft items. Bonney Stroh is our crafts director. Our VBS ends with a special Sunday program and annual picnic.

St. Johns has a weekly radio ministry on KSJB - 600 AM that broadcasts at 6:30 AM every Sunday morning. St. Johns is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

We have been blessed with faithful pastors throughout our history proclaiming God's word and the Lutheran Confessional teachings. For by faith are we saved through grace and not of ourselves, it is a gift of God - Ephesians 2:8.



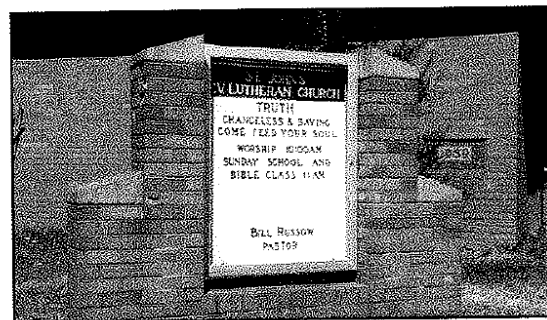
St. John's Ladies Aid - 1966

Back row: Mrs. Ira Maw, Mrs. Donald Hasse, Mrs. Clarence Hasse, Mrs. Alton Kemmet, Mrs. Marvin Thorsness, Mrs. Russel Olson, Mrs. Walter Martin. Front row: Mrs. Adam Hoff, Mrs. Stanley Chmielewski, Mrs. Clayton Maw, Mrs. Louie Chmielewski, Mrs. August Doerr and Mrs. Ervin Thornton.

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St. John's Lutheran Church - 2002



Church Bulletin Board

A Note on the Sources

This centennial history has been compiled from several sources, including previous histories of the congregation that were prepared for special occasions in the past, in particular, those prepared for the fiftieth, sixtieth, and seventy-fifth anniversaries. In many places, the text as it appears in those previous historical summaries has been repeated verbatim here. Additional sources consulted for the preparation of this centennial history include:

The *Journal* found by Pastor William Russow, containing ledger entries of the congregation from 1920 through the early 1940s

“History of St. John Lutheran Church,” apparently prepared and supplemented circa 1935–1958, found in the church archives

Materials from Dedication of the new church building, 1959

Service bulletin, Mortgage burning and organ dedication service, 1968

Fifty Years of God’s Blessings in the Dakota-Montana District, 1920–1970

In this volume, specifically, pages 59–65: Rev. E.R. Gamm, “Our Daughter District’s Golden Jubilee – 1970: Dakota-Montana District,” paper presented to the WELS Minnesota District Convention, July 29, 1970, Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota.

Service bulletin, Organ Dedication and Church Rededication, June 21, 1992

Church directory with historical review included, 1993

Service bulletins, 75th Anniversary Services, July 25, 1999

Materials from 50th Anniversary of the new church building, 2009

Stories from the First 100 Years of the Dakota-Montana District, by Rev. J. Dauck, 2022

Document prepared by Pastor Juergens to accompany the call to a new pastor, 2023

Council and Voters Record Book of more recent years

Official Church Record Book

Church bulletins and other materials preserved in the church archives

100 Years of Progress: Tappen Centennial 1878–1978

Tappen, North Dakota: 125th Birthday, 1878–2003

Streeter, N.D. Diamond Jubilee, 1905–1980

Rural and Village Cemeteries of Stutsman County, North Dakota, compiled by George L. Barron (Carrington, ND: James River Genealogy Club, 1999)

Cemeteries of Kidder County, North Dakota, compiled by George L. Barron (Carrington, ND: James River Genealogy Club, 1996)

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SOLI DEO GLORIA
TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY





St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, since 1924

Sola Gratia ~ Sola Fide ~ Sola Scriptura

By Grace Alone ~ By Faith Alone ~ By Scripture Alone