

Opening Prayer

Prelude The Rev. Paul Krause, Organist (*former pastor*)

Opening Hymn 39 "Praise to the LORD, the Almighty"

All 1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is Thy Health and Salvation!
Join the full throng: Wake, harp and psalter and song;
Sound forth in glad adoration!

All 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Who, as on wings of an eagle, uplifteth, sustaineth.
Hast thou not seen How thy desires all have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Women 3. Praise to the Lord, who hath fearfully, wondrously, made thee;
Health hath vouchsafed and, when heedlessly falling, hath stayed thee.
What need or grief Ever hath failed of relief?--
Wings of His mercy did shade thee.

Men 4. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee,
Who from the heavens the streams of His mercy doth send thee.
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do,
Who with His love doth befriend thee.

All Standing 5. Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen Sound from His people again;
Gladly for aye we adore Him. Amen!

PASTOR In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. O Lord, open Thou my lips.

CONG(sing) And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.

PASTOR Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

CONG(sing) Make haste to help me, O Lord. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Hallelujah!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

ALL: Lord God, heavenly Father, we stand before You today as recipients of Your grace. For one hundred years we have enjoyed the proclamation of Your Gospel from our pulpits and in our classrooms. Throughout our history You have been faithful to us, providing for all our needs. Yet we must confess to our shame that at times our zeal to hear and to share Your Gospel message has faltered. We do not always receive Your Word with joy. We fail to keep Your commandments to love You above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We indeed deserve Your judgment for our many sins. For this, O Lord, we humbly ask for Your forgiveness. We do not trust in our own merits, for we have none. Rather we trust in the merits of Your dear Son, Jesus, our Lord and Savior!

P: The Gospel message of our Savior-God proclaims that Jesus was delivered up for our offenses and raised again for our justification. Our Lord assures us that when we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Having confessed your sins, it is my privilege as a called servant of the Word to announce unto you the forgiveness of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

RESPONSIVE ANNIVERSARY READING

P: O LORD, our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come;

C: On this day of anniversary we gratefully remember the blessings of past and present. On this day we pledge ourselves to faithfulness to the God of our salvation in the future.

P: O LORD, our God, how glorious is Your Name in all the earth! You have made us, and You still preserve us with everything we need to nourish our body and bring you to our life.

C: You have done this as our gracious Father in Heaven by Your goodness and love.

P: O LORD, our God, how glorious is Your Name in all the earth! You have freed us lost and condemned creatures from the curse of sin, from the sting of death, and from the slavery to satan.

C: You made us Your own that we may serve You with a joyful heart.

P: O LORD, our God, how glorious is Your Name in all the earth! You have united us into one family with our Lord Jesus Christ and kept us in the true faith.

C: You fill our lives with rich gifts of the Holy Spirit: An unwavering trust, the love that knows no limit and no end, and the courage that never fails in time of trial and in time of death.

P: Holy and righteous God, on this anniversary of our congregation, we thank You with all our heart that You have so bountifully blessed us for so many years and given us opportunity to glorify Your name and proclaim Your wonderful works from one generation to another.

C: We thank You for upholding Your little flock through fortune and misfortune, through times of war and peace, of depression and prosperity; and we thank You especially for those now fallen asleep who served Your Church in the past, who remained faithful to the end, and now have received the crown of life through Christ Jesus.

P: Holy and mighty God, on this anniversary of our congregation we praise You for the wonderful work You give Your Church to do, that Your saving Name may be known in all the earth.

C: We praise You for the people of the Church whom You prepare for the work of the preaching and teaching ministry. We praise You, O Savior, for the Gospel of salvation which by Your Spirit You have imprinted upon our heart and soul.

P: Eternal and most merciful God, on the day of anniversary we pray that You would continue to be with us in the future as You have in the past, and that You keep us in Your saving grace.

C: We ask You, O LORD, to keep Your little flock firm in the faith and steadfast in our calling so that generations yet unborn may share with us Your gift of eternal life.

P: Hear us, O God, and look upon us in Your grace. We bring our petitions to You, not because of any good in us, but on account of Your great mercy. LORD, keep us holy through Your Word. Your Word is truth.

**C: (Singing) God's Word is our great heritage
And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way,
In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,
We keep its teachings pure.
Throughout all generations.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

The First Bible Reading

Jeremiah 31:33-34 "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Anthem by the Choir - "Christ is our Cornerstone"

1. Christ is our Corner-stone, On Him alone we build;
With His true saints alone The courts of heaven are filled.
On His great love Our hopes we place Of present grace And joys above.
2. Here, gracious God, do Thou Forevermore draw nigh;
Accept each faithful vow And mark each suppliant sigh.
In copious shower On all who pray Each holy day, Thy blessing pour. Amen
3. Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we implore,
And may that grace once giv'n, Be with us evermore
Until that day When all the blest To endless rest Are called away!
2. Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise The three in One to sing
And thus proclaim In joyful song, Both loud and long That glorious name.

The Second Bible Reading

Acts 2:1-21 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? 8 "And how is it that

we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? 9 "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 "Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 "Cretans and Arabs; we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." 12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?" 13 Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine." 14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. 15 "For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. 21 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.'

(Congregation sings...)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!**

CONFESSION OF FAITH:

(from the Formula of Concord – on Justification by Faith)

"We unanimously believe, teach, and confess the following about the righteousness of faith before God. A poor sinful person is justified before God, that is, absolved and declared free and exempt from all his sins and from the sentence of well-deserved condemnation, and is adopted into sonship and inheritance of eternal life, without any merit or worth of his own. This happens without any preceding, present, or subsequent works, out of pure grace, because of the sole merit, complete obedience, bitter suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Christ alone. His obedience is

credited to us for righteousness. These treasures are brought to us by the Holy Spirit in the promise of the holy Gospel. Faith alone is the only means through which we lay hold on, accept, apply, and take them for ourselves. This faith is God's gift, by which we truly learn to know Christ, our Redeemer, in the Word of the Gospel and trust in Him. We trust that for the sake of His obedience alone we have the forgiveness of sins by grace, are regarded as godly and righteous by God the Father, and are eternally saved." Amen!

Hymn 262 "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" by Dr. Martin Luther, 1483-1546

1. A mighty Fortress is our God, A trusty Shield and Weapon;
He helps us free from every need That hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil Foe Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;
On Earth is not his equal.
2. With might of ours can naught be done,
Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the Valiant One, Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is.
Of Sabaoth Lord, And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.
3. Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us.
We tremble not, we fear no ill, They shall not overpower us.
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none, He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.
4. The Word they still shall let remain Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life, Goods, fame, child and wife,
Let these all be gone, They yet have nothing won;
The Kingdom our remaineth. Amen.

THE SERMON – Part I

(Professor Paul Schaller – former pastor of the congregation)

1 Peter 2:1-6 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. 4 As you come to him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him-- 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

Theme: "LOOK WHAT GOD HAS DONE IN 100 YEARS"

Anthem sung by the Pastors

Hymn 467 "Built on the Rock the Church doth Stand"

1. Built on the Rock the Church doth stand, Even when steeples are falling;
Crumbled have spires in every land, Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest, But above all the soul distrest,
Longing for rest everlasting.

2. Surely in temples made with hands, God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
High above earth His temple stands, All earthly temples excelling.
Yet He whom heavens cannot contain Chose to abide on earth with men,
Built in our bodies His temple.

3. We are God's house of living stones, Buildded for His habitation;
He through baptismal grace us owns Heirs of His wondrous salvation.
Were we but two His name to tell, Yet He would deign with us to dwell,
With all His grace and His favor.

6. Here stands the font before our eyes Telling how God did receive us;
The altar recalls Christ's sacrifice And what His table doth give us;
Here sounds the Word that doth proclaim Christ yesterday, today, the same,
"My peace I leave with you." Amen.

THE SERMON – Part II

(Pastor David Schaller – son of the congregation)

1 Peter 2:7-10 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone," 8 and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message--which is also what they were destined for. 9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Theme: "LOOK WHAT GOD HAS PROMISED IN THE YEARS TO COME"

(Congregation sings...)

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence,
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
And uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

THE ANNIVERSARY OFFERING

Trumpet and Organ instrumental by Paul and David Schaller

THE OFFERING HYMN

(Hymn 572:4)

**As Thy prospering hand hath blest, May we give Thee of our best
And by deeds of kindly love For Thy mercies grateful prove,
Singing thus through all our days Praise to God, immortal praise**

THE ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

(Responsive)

P: Almighty and eternal God, when the time had fully come, You sent Your Son, our LORD Jesus Christ, to take our place under the demands of the law and to endure the just punishment for our sins. You accepted His sacrifice on the cross. You raised Him from death in glorious splendor. For His sake, You richly and daily forgive the sins of all who put their trust in You.

C: Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.

P: When the time had fully come, You bestowed Your Holy Spirit on Your people as a testimony that You had called them to proclaim the Gospel to every creature. Equipped and encouraged, they carried the story of salvation into all the world.

C: The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.

P: When the time had fully come, You raised up Your servant Martin Luther to destroy the idols of the medieval age and to restore the pure and right teaching of the Scriptures. You renewed Your people with the light of Your love, You granted power and success to the proclamation of the Gospel, and Your holy Church grew and prospered throughout the world.

C: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

P: When the time had fully come, You brought together the founders and builders of this congregation. Guided by Your Spirit, they took hold of the truth and became witnesses of Your Word. They joined hands with other believers and worked together in the ministry of the Gospel as living stones of Your Church. You have blessed their sons and daughters during the 100 years past and enabled us to preserve and proclaim the saving Gospel of Your Son Jesus Christ.

C: Sing to the LORD, for He has done marvelous things; let this be known to all the world.

P: Let this be the time, O LORD, when You renew us again by Word and Sacrament, when You reform our hearts and minds, and when You restore to us the joy of fellowship and service. Grant to us in this age and in this place the courage of the apostles, the steadfastness of the reformers, and the dedication of the leaders of our congregation's past.

C: May the LORD our God be with us as He was with our fathers. May He never leave us or forsake us.

P: Let this be a time, O LORD, for confession and repentance. For Jesus' sake forgive us whenever we love ourselves more than You and whenever we serve ourselves instead of Your people. Forgive us for the apathy that harms our faith and hinders our work. Forgive us for boasting of our past

achievements and for blaming others for our present problems. Rid us of indifference for public worship and continued growth in Your Word, destroy all distrust that may plague us, and shatter every thought and word which harms the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace.

C: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

P: Let this be the time, O LORD, when we recommit and re-consecrate ourselves to the ministry of the Gospel of Your Son. Let us find joy in our unity, zeal for our work, and, if it is Your will, success in our labor. And give us faith, O LORD, to truly be, in our thoughts, words, and actions, what You have called us to be -- witnesses of Your grace!

C: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face shine upon us, that Your ways may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations.

P: Keep in Your care, O LORD, all those we love, those who are close by and those far from home. Protect them from temptation and every spiritual evil. Watch over those among us who are lonely or distressed, those who are afraid and facing danger, those who have pain of body or mind, and those who are at the hour of death. Hear the prayers Your people bring You this day, O LORD, and answer them according to Your wisdom and grace, for Jesus' sake, Who has taught us to pray...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever, Amen.

Hymn 775 "Thy Strong Word"

1. Thy strong Word did cleave the darkness; At Thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank Thee, While Thine ordered seasons run.

Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia without end!

2. From the cross Thy wisdom shinning Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth All Thy bright redeeming light.

Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia without end!

3. Give us lips to sing Thy glory, Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end. Amen!

THE BENEDICTION

PASTOR: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

CONGREGATION SINGS: "Amen, Amen, Amen."

Closing Hymn 632 "In the Name which Earth and Heaven"

1. In the name which earth and heaven Ever worship, praise, and fear,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, We a house have builded here.
Here with prayer its deep foundations, In the faith of Christ did lay,
Trusting by His help to crown it With the top-stone in its day.

2. Here as in their due succession Stone on stone the men did place.
Thus, we pray, unseen, but surely, Jesus, build us up in grace,
Till, as in these walls completed, We complete in Thee are found
And to Thee, the one Foundation, Strong and living stones, are bound.

6. Praise to Thee, O Master Builder, Maker of the earth and skies;
Praise to Thee, in whom Thy Temple, Fitly framed together, lies;
Praise to Thee, eternal Spirit, Binding all that lives in one
Till our earthly praise be ended And th' eternal song begun! Amen.

*** *Silent Prayer* ***

WELCOME TO OUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

It is wonderful to have former members of St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church and other visitors come and share in our thanksgiving to God for His marvelous blessings of grace upon our congregation. Please come back and visit us in the future! Following today's service everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall for a celebration meal. Following that a 100th Anniversary Program is planned in the church sanctuary. Please come and share in remembrances and in expressing our Christian fellowship.

◆ **Thanks:** We thank all those who have been involved in the planning and preparation of today's celebration. We thank the former pastors and sons of the congregation and their families for coming such long distances to share the Word with us. Professor Paul Schaller serves at Immanuel Lutheran College in Eau Claire, WI. Pastor David Schaller serves Redeemer Lutheran Church in Sister Lakes, MI. Pastor Paul Krause serves Faith Lutheran Church in Markesan, WI.



DETAILED HISTORY OF ST. JOHN'S CONGREGATION

The sheep of Jesus were in need of a shepherd as they had moved into the Lewiston-Clarkston area, but found no church there of their confession, so they contacted the Wisconsin Synod. Pastor R. Ziegler summarizes the events that followed.

"In response to the order of the President and the itinerant pastor's commission of the Wisconsin Synod in Wisconsin and other states, Pastor Richard Siegler of Wisconsin conducted a survey of mission here in the West in order to gather the scattered of the faith wherever there were some people who did not have the service of the Word and Sacrament. The object was to gather them as a congregation and establish preaching opportunities.

By courtesy of the brothers Walk, one of whom came from our congregation in Bay City, Michigan and the other from our church in Neilsville, Wisconsin, Pastor Siegler also went to Lewiston on March 6, 1912. After many days of concentrated mission work he found in Lewiston and Clarkston quite a number of Lutheran Christians who did not belong to any congregation and had now definite confession. They asked us to start Lutheran services. We are happy to respond to their request.

On March 24th the first service was held in the English Presbyterian Church on Main Street in Lewiston. Close to 50 people appeared for the services. An assortment of both German and English Lutheran hymnals were brought.

Since it was the Lenten season, we sang 'Jesus Grant That Balm and Healing in Thy Sacred Wounds Find' and on the basis of the text from Luke 4:18, Pastor Siegler preached on the theme 'How the Lord, through the Gospel and His suffering, gathers His people.' At the gathering after their service it was unanimously decided that regular services would be conducted once a month for the present.

On April 28, 1912, a second service was held. Although it rained, more than 50 people attended. At this gathering there were guests. The president of the Wisconsin Synod, Pastor G.E. Bergeman from Fond du Lac, Wis., and the chairman of Itinerant Preachers, Pastor H. Bergman from Milwaukee, Wis. The first was asked to deliver a sermon. After the service the congregational meeting was called. It was decided that a future meeting was to be held concerning the organization of the congregation. The meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, April 30th.

ORGANIZATION OF THE CONGREGATION

On April 30th (1912) the announced congregational meeting was held in the Presbyterian Church. There the group was organized as *Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Congregation of Lewiston Idaho and Clarkston Washington*. The presented constitution of the Wisconsin Synod was adopted, a pastor called, and the following deacons chosen: Messrs. R. Walk, John P. Roos, H.W. Windram, F.C. Mueller, Max Trackmann, Chas. Maier. C.F. Ziegler, Carl Zimmer, P.J. Walk; besides a number of women and maiden.

With heartfelt thanks to God who through His Word has gathered His Christians here as a congregation; and with prayers for the future growth our meeting was adjourned." (From *St. John's voter's minutes 1912*)

Their first pastor, **W.P. Hass**, was installed by President F. H. K. Soll on September 29, 1912. He lived with the R.H. Walk family at 18th & Main Street (Lewiston) until he was married. The parsonage was located on 13th & Chestnut (Clarkston). Pastor Hass served the congregation until October, 1918 when he took the call to Oconomowoc, WI. and the congregation has a vacancy for almost a year.

In September, 1919, Pastor **Richard Janke** accepted the call of the congregation. The conditions were exceedingly difficult then too. He lived with the P.J Walk family on Walk Lane but it was too far out of town so he lived at R.H. Walk's family instead. Pastor Janke got his first car so he no longer needed the horse and buggy that was loaned to him.

Through these formative years the congregation their worship services were held in the old Methodist Church (for about a year), Our Savior's Lutheran Church until church was built. Often both pastor and members became discouraged but God granted them His grace and in the year 1921 St. John's purchased property at 7th and Diagonal in Clarkston, WA. The decision to construct a church building was made in May, 1923. With a loan of \$1250 plus the church building treasury of the Synod and of friends in the East the church was built. On November 18, 1923, the St. John's congregation dedicated to the Triune God, a very modest frame

building (26'X36' with a 10'X12' vestibule) as their new house of worship. At the morning service Pastor A. Sydow (father of Pastor Gilbert Sydow)of Tacoma, WA preached in English on the text, Mark 8:35-37 and Pastor F. Soll of Yakima, WA preached on Psalm 84: 2-9. At the evening service Pastor A. Sydow preached in German on John 3:22 and Pastor Soll in English on Hosea 2:19-20. All services were well attended.

"The altar, pulpit, hymn rack and baptismal font were made by a member, Peter Arp after Pastor Janke showed him some pictures in a catalog. The furnishings were made of pine lumber, stained and varnished a dark walnut color, trimmed with gold beading and rosettes. The Yakima congregation donated the communion set and the red and gold altar pieces. Mrs. Kirst and Mrs. Barfty made the linens. R.H. Walk donated the altar vases and the rug in front of the altar. Dad (Mr. Walk) borrowed a bench from Our Savior's – took it to Troy Lumber and told them to copy it, then put in an order for enough for our chapel" (*From 75th Anniversary Scrapbook by Francis (Walk) Weaver*). The church building served the congregation for the next 40 years.

In 1924 Pastor Janke accepted a call as a professor at Dr. Martin Luther College (DMLC) in New Ulm, MN. He was succeeded by Pastor **Ewald F. Kirst** who was installed February 10, 1924. He also served a small congregation on the Palouse. Services were held in the Elmer family home. He emptied the front room, provided an organ and some chairs and benches. In 1928 the Palouse congregation called Pastor Zimmerman.

On June 30, 1935, St. John's celebrated the mortgage released of the church building. Pastor F. Soll of Yakima, WA addressed the congregation. A picnic at Asotin Park followed the service. Pastor Kirst was released on April 14, 1941 and **Pastor**

George Frey accepted the congregational call on July 12, 1942. Pastor M.J. Witt from Palouse, WA served the congregation in the interim.

In October, 1943 St. John's renovated the basement of the church with new lights and plumbing.

On July 20, 1947 the congregation celebrated **35 years of worship**. Pastor Kirst was the guest speaker.

Pastor Frey was released as he accepted a call to serve the congregation in Yakima, WA. in 1947. The congregation was served by Pastor **Leland Grams**, Faulkton, SD until July 17, 1949 when Pastor **Leonard Bernthal** was installed as St. John's new shepherd of God's flock.

During Pastor Bernthal's pastorate the purchase of an electric organ in July 1950 brought forth more music to praise the Lord and new tile was installed in the church and vestibule. A cement driveway and retaining walls were also built.

In the June 1957 voter's meeting there was discussion on starting a parochial school – a committee was formed. The cost of meeting the county requirements (\$1440) and after much research, the voters decided that the church should not start a new project before other projects needed to be finished. The subject wasn't brought up again until many years later.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE WISCONSIN SYNOD - 1957

After much Bible study and prayer it was decided that St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church was not in agreement with the Wisconsin Synod. On October 6, 1957 "The membership of St. John's Ev. Lutheran reviewed the history of the controversy between the Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Wisconsin and Other States and the Lutheran-Missouri Synod. The pertinent resolutions and the Protest of the Pacific Northwest District, the Pastoral Conference Protest and our Pastor's declaration to the Wisconsin Synod have been carefully studied. After prayerful deliberation the Church Council of St. John's Lutheran Church finds itself bound by God's Word to make the following recommendations... Since the ELJSW (WELS) continued to be in fellowship with the Missouri Synod contrary to the Word of God...; Continues in this fellowship in spite of admonition...; Justifies unscripturally this disobedience to God's Word, as shown by its resolutions of 1955, 1956, 1957...; God instructs us to "avoid those who continue to cause divisions and offenses contrary to Christ's doctrine...; Resolved that SJLC of Clarkston, WA suspend fellowship with the ELJW., and no longer support nor receive support from said Synod until they have removed the divisions and offences contrary to Christ's doctrine...; Resolved that we instruct the Secretary of SJLC to forward this report to the President of the PNWD of the Wisconsin Synod and to the Chairman of the Mission Board of the PNWD of the Wisconsin Synod....."(From letter written to the President of the Wisconsin Synod)

After settling property and financial matters, St. John's Lutheran Church joined the Interim Conference – Later known as The Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC). There were approximately 70 souls at this time.

50TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY- 1962

"April, 1962- St. John's celebrated their 50th anniversary. The guest speaker was Pastor W. Karnitz, Wenatchee, WA, who was the assistant pastor of St. Paul's Church, Ellensburg, WA. He spoke at the 10:30am service. The only surviving member of the original congregation, Anna Walk, was present. She was accompanied by her daughter, Francis Weaver of Lenore, ID. A special mission service was combined with the anniversary observance, since it had been originally started as missionary endeavor of the Wisconsin Synod. Pastor Karnitz reminded the congregation the church existed 50 years 'in the grace of God'. He encouraged them to be thankful and to continue working in behalf of the church." (From newspaper article – Lewiston Morning Tribune, 1962)

On July 21, 1963 the congregation decided that it would be for the best interest of the Gospel to relocate to another location. It was resolved to sell the Diagonal property. The final service at this property was held on August 25, 1963.

THE BUILDING OF THE NEW CHURCH-1964-65

The former building of Our Savior's Lutheran Church again was used for worship services, while the members of the congregation set about to build their own new church. In July, 1963 the offer of \$775.00 to sell the church property on Diagonal was accepted. September they resolved to buy their new property at 14th and Birch St in Clarkston, WA at a cost of \$5,500. The next months were spent making the necessary plans for the building so that the construction could begin the

first part of 1964. The Building Committee was formed with Keith Caton, Chairman; Albert Gephardt, Secretary and General Supervisor; Adolph Riggers; Marvin Jackson; and Pastor Leonard Bernthal.

The ground breaking ceremony at the new site was held the 16th of February, 1964. Work at the site began the next day and by the end of the week the footings for the new structure were poured.

Work progressed steadily even though it was being done by volunteer labor. Except for the cement flooring, the glass and brick work, which was hired out, the labor came from willing members of the congregation.

The laminated tresses were raised the 11th of April, with the framing and sheathing completed the roof was being shingled at the end of the month. The next weeks were spent laying ducts, pipes, and steel rods in preparation for the cement flooring. It was poured on the 8th and 13th of June.

With the wood siding on and painted, insulation was being stapled in place the middle of July and by the middle of August the large areas inside were covered with sheetrock. The brick outside was laid the last weeks of September and on the 19th of October the first paint was applied to the finished walls of the worship area.. With the blessed gift in carpentry, Pastor Bernthal constructed the chancel furniture and the "fish" symbol above the altar, with efforts from Walter Weaver. He began his work began the 24th and was finished the middle of November. The interior of the worship area was enough along to have the first service in the new church on Sunday, November 22. The first Sunday School classes were held in their new rooms on February 23, 1965.

Finished work went along at a more leisurely pace. Tiling was on the floor by the end of March, and while molding was being finished inside, the curbing and sidewalks were being poured outside. The light green carpet (from Skelton's) was laid the last week of April and on the 9th of May the congregation enjoyed the comfort and beauty of their new pews.

The cabinet work was completed with the landscaping to come in the future. With the building fund donations and the sale of the old property, and with the help of volunteer labor, the new church was dedicated debt free!! The total cost of the church project was about \$16,000.

The church dedication was held on September 5, 1965 at 10:30am. Pastor Robert Reim of Spokane, WA spoke at the morning dedication. His sermon text was Isaiah 6:1-8. The evening service held at 7:30pm was conducted by Pastor Gilbert Sydow of Ellensburg, WA, whose late father was the guest speaker at the first church.

THE CONTINUATION OF OUR HISTORY

In August, 1965 Pastor Bernthal accepted a call to St. Louis, MO. The congregation went out a call to Pastor **Kenneth Hallauer** serving the congregations in White River and Mission, SD. He accepted the call was installed November 28, 1965. Pastor Robert Reim, Gethsemane, Spokane conducted the service. Members from our sister congregations in Seattle, Spokane and Orofino joined us and the church was full. Theme for the day was "God's Word is our Great Heritage".

However, through careful and much thought Pastor Hallauer felt that he could no longer fulfill his duties in the ministry and in July, 2, 1967 he announced his resignation from our call.

Our Lord's guiding hand led us to call Pastor **Helmuth E. Rutz**, serving our sister congregation in Jamestown ND. He accepted our call to be our Shepherd in August, 1967. Installation ceremonies were conducted by Pastor M.J. Witt of Trinity Lutheran in Spokane, WA., who had served the congregation as interim pastor.

ADDITION OF SOUTH FELLOWSHIP HALL-1972

During Pastor's duration the parsonage on 11th St was paid off October, 1971 and in April, 1972 the addition of 2 new Sunday School rooms and a pastor's office was started. Once again, the majority of the work was done by volunteers and we were able to complete the work debt free. Most of the interior work was done by Howard Ceske.

THE CONTINUATION OF OUR HISTORY

In January 1975 the vacant lot to the south of the church property was purchased with the intent to build a parsonage in the future. September brought the congregation to seek a new organ. They purchased a Thomas electric organ. The older organ was put in the new Sunday School rooms as was used for social gatherings and the like.

Through the volunteer work of Marvin Jackson and other the kitchen was remodeled with new kitchen cabinets and a serving counter. The work took place in the months of November and December with work completed by Christmas, 1976.

In February, 1980 a Building Committee was formed to look into the feasibility to constructing a parsonage on the property that was purchased south of the church. The parsonage on 11th Street was appraised at \$39,500. March, 1980 brought the congregation to call another Shepherd as Pastor Rutz had retired from the ministry and was moving to Cheyenne, WY to be close to his children. Pastor Paul Schaller, serving the congregation in Hayward, CA accepted our call.

March 1980 brought St. John's to call another pastor to be their Shepherd as Pastor Rutz was resigning his call to us and also was retiring from the ministry after 45 years. His plan was to join his children living in Cheyenne, WY. The Lord's hand guided us to call Pastor **Paul Schaller**, who was serving a sister congregation in Hayward, CA. He accepted our call and was installed by Pastor M.J. Witt from Trinity Lutheran, Spokane, WA.

NEW PARSONAGE – 1981

In January, a Building Committee was formed to look into the feasibility of constructing a parsonage on the south property. With the old parsonage (on 11th St) valued at \$40,000, a loan of \$7500 at 10% interest and with pledges from the members it was decided that we could build one. Construction on the house was done during the spring and summer of 1981. Within months of starting the construction, we ran into trouble with the main builder. It was reported that he had not paid any of the sub-contractors with the \$10,000 cash advance. A number of lawyers were hired to handle the legal matters. In 1982 the matter was still to be resolved with the contractor in default

and the money that was owed could be collected from the Washington State Builders Bond, which when collected we could pay off the loan, with the congregation paying the sub-contractors out of pocket of \$5566.00. The matter was finally settled in 1984- two years after we had started the project.

The parsonage, however, was completed and in September, 1981 we held our dedication services and the Schaller family moved in. The upstairs was completed but only one room (a pastor's small office) in the basement was finished with the intent to finish the basement sometime in the future, when our finances were in better shape. Landscaping and fencing still had to be done but we were joyed in having the parsonage on our church property.

THE CONTINUATION OF OUR HISTORY

Through all our financial difficulties the Lord still blessed our church with an increase of membership, the ability to pay our bills and the pastor's salary (with increases yearly), having the pews upholstered (1983) in time for Christmas services), putting in a fence/landscaping around the parsonage and church property, adding a deck onto the east side and finish the basement bathroom

of the parsonage, a new copy machine, making our bathroom doors larger to accommodate our wheel chair bound members, replacing the four windows in the fellowship hall with energy efficient ones. In 1986, St. John's had our first vicar, David Naumann, who was here for a 6 week period (unbeknownst to us that he would be our pastor 26 years later!). Howard Ceske volunteered to house the vicar. David Naumann reported later that he was very pleased with his experience here (and at Peace)

75TH ANNIVERSARY- 1987

October 4, 1987 – our 75th Anniversary celebration was held at a 10:30am special worship service. Theme for the day was *"God's Word is our Great Heritage"*. Leading the service was Pastor Paul Schaller with Pastor Leland Grams (retired and living in Aberdeen, SD) served St. John's as vacancy pastor in 1947-48 and in 1990, preached the special sermon using the text from 1 Kings 8:57. He also led the morning Bible Class. A songfest was held at 2pm that was open to the public. Tom Caulton, from our sister congregation Redemption Lutheran, Lynnwood, WA was the guest organist. Thanks went to all those who put in so many hours and so much effort to prepare the church grounds, meals, and remembrances. We were thankful for this display of joy in the ministry of the Gospel of Christ, and the willingness to share it with others. Women from the Ladies Aid worked on a 75th year scrapbook (much input by Francis Weaver). Members of our sister congregations in Seattle, Spokane, and Orofino joined us for the festive day. Many pictures were taken of members, past and present. A wonderful day for all attending.

THE CONTINUATION OF OUR HISTORY

After much thought and prayer, Pastor Schaller accepted the call to Trinity Lutheran Church, Spokane in November, 1989. In the absence of a pastor it was decided to call Pastor Leland Grams to be the vacancy pastor till our call was answered. Since he would be here on a temporary basis the members offered household furniture/items and a car if it was needed.

After several calls to various pastors (including former vicar David Naumann) Pastor **Peter Reim**, Jamestown, ND accepted our call. Art Pochardt volunteered to move the pastor and his family. Installation was in April, 1990.

St. John's Ladies Aid, hosted a Women's Seminar with sister congregations from Spokane, (Trinity and Gethsemane) Seattle, and Orofino joining in. Saturday, October 3, 1992 was a full day of discussions, song and fellowship. Although it was quite an undertaking it was so rewarding to share the Gospel and our thoughts with other Christian women.

April, 1994 became a special year as St. John's was once again in need of an organ. It was decided to purchase a new Allen organ from Spokane using some of the funds donated from our beloved Francis Weaver's estate. She held a very special place in the congregation's heart and was an organist for the congregation for many years. Members felt it was a good tribute to her. It has served us well.

The basement in the parsonage was remodeled and finished around 1998. 2 bedrooms were completed along with a large family room, pantry, and laundry room with the option of a ½ bath. The volunteer work by Ken Martin and Pastor Reim made the parsonage have more living space. Carpeting was put in to make it much warmer during the winter.

Once again St. John's was calling for a new shepherd after Pastor Reim, in 1995 accepted a call to Loveland, CO. Pastor **Paul Krause** from Hecla, SD answered our call. Art Pochardt again volunteered to move the new pastor and family. Installation services were held May 12, 1996 with Pastor Paul Schaller from Spokane officiating.

Through the years the congregation wrestled with upkeep of the church, new roof, installing central air, broken windows, sprinkler heads needing replacing, new copy machine and replacing the carpet in the church proper with a commercial grade one. (1998).

In 1999 it was decided to replace the large shrubs in the front of the church with a rose garden in memory of a dear member, Armin Penkert- a lover of roses. It has provided beautiful roses for the summer for our altar.

In early July, 2000 St John's was a part of the "*Traveling Vacation Bible School*" as coordinated by Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, WI. Pastor Terrel Kesterson (Trinity) and his son Jeff came down in early July along with Matt Hanel (from Mankato, MN, who was our vicar in 2002, to help hand out several hundred flyers advertising our VBS. The next week the Wuerch family drove here to serve as our teaching teach. Each of them took one of our four class levels. Over the course of the week 33 children were in attendance, 26 of them as visitors. A vast number of members helped out in many ways to make the VBS a success.

The Ladies Aid took the task of making "Chrismons" for our Christmas tree in 1999-2000. They were made with sequins and Styrofoam. Our Christmas trees are still, today, being graced with their efforts in creating some beautiful trees.

By 2001 Pastor Krause was serving a small group of believers in the Walla Walla area at George Sack's house. Pastor had a few families in the Hermiston, OR area that he was also serving. Trips to these two places were done every 3rd

Saturday of the month (weather permitting). These services had fallen during the bulk of 2003, due to George Sack's health and partly due to scheduling. As of December, 2003 they were back on track again at George's house with Judy and Stacy Boman coming over from the Tri Cities area for communion and confirmation for Stacy once a month-typically the 2nd Saturday of the month. These services had now been discontinued but contact is still being done through e-mailed sermons and Ministry by Mail. He was also having weekly Bible Story videos with our members: Kirby Seiblist, Julia Palmer and Francis Couch.

June, 2002 the TVBS crew of 11 came to help pass out flyers and in July, Professor Ross Roehl and family and several others from various CLC congregations came and help with the teaching, crafts and music. All told there were 47 children in VBS with only a handful were members of St. John's.

SUMMER PALOUSE BIBLE STUDY

The spring of 2003 brought us some new members from the Palouse. (Ken and Carolyn Hallauer were among them). They presented the idea of carrying on with a weekly Wednesday night Bible Study during the summer months (from after Easter to Reformation) but to be held in Colfax, WA. The first place was in a community room at the Sterling Savings bank- free of charge. They were about 8 members who came on a regular basis with open discussions on various topics. The bank was the meeting place for 2 summers when scheduling conflicts appeared. The group then moved to Pullman, meeting in various rooms at the Gladdish Center – even met a hallway once! Again the group was forced to move due to higher cost of the renting the rooms, so started meeting in the 1912 building until 2008. Attendance had grown to about 12-14 people on any given Wednesday night. In 2010 the group started meeting in a back room of the shopping mall in Moscow, however, the room has since been taken over by a business and the group has been looking for another place to meet. God willing they will be able to start up again in the spring of 2012.

PULPIT EXCHANGE

2003 – For Midweek Lenten services the three area pastors started exchanging pulpits. Pastor Krause, Pastor Terrel Kesterson and Pastor Robert List, both from Spokane. This exchange continues to date (2012) with Pastor Nathan Pfeffer replacing Pastor Kesterson who has taken a call to CA. Soup suppers before the services started in 2012-visiting pastors enjoy the free meal and fellowshiping with members of the congregation.

A POSSIBLE PARACHOIAL SHOOL?

In 2005 a committee was formed to look the feasibility of opening a Christian Day School at St. John's. The committee spent many months/hours getting the property changed and approved (May, 2005) from residual to public/semi-public (amidst some strong opposition from a few neighbors); building inspections; designing a playground area for commissioner's approval; looking at all the financial aspects (using some of church saving as start-up cost); seeing how many children we could have enrolled; insurance; and teacher's salary/ housing. After much prayer for God's answer, it was decided that St. John's it was not feasible at that time. Reasons given: There did not seem to be enough children/parents interested in our midst to

form a “core” group; too many unanswered and unanswerable questions concerning having a school; and the committee wanted to avoid divisions that were forming within the members. It was their hope and prayer that sometime in the future this effort could become viable.

REMODELING PROJECT- Fall, 2007

It was decided that aluminum siding be put on the church exterior. Marvin Jackson paid for the siding with the church paying for the gutter work. The voter’s passed the remodeling project to the south annex. Plans to put in 2 new Sunday School rooms (with wall heaters), a larger pastor’s office and to restore the hallway from west entryway to the kitchen. With the ability to close both doors to kitchen it would recreate a quieter environment for Bible Study classes. To reduce the cost, it was decided to reuse paneling and doors whenever possible. Volunteers – Jerry & Verlene Coleman, Ken and Sue Martin, Pastor Krause, Dwight and Alyssa Krause with Rebecca and Stephen helping pull nails. When project was completed new carpet was laid for all rooms on the south side of church. Estimated cost was around \$1900 – debt free.

THE CONTINUATION OF OUR HISTORY

Fall of 2008 brought the congregation to calling another pastor as Pastor Krause had accepted a call to Faith Lutheran Church in Markesan, WI. Congregation was quite saddened by the events but they put all things in God’s hands. After a returned call from Pastor David Schaller it was decided to call Pastor **Scott Schiermeister**, who was a spring graduate from ILC and had no call at the time. He accepted our call and was installed January 4, 2009. On November 8, 2009 Pastor Schiermeister resigned his call to St. John’s and Peace in Orofino. He returned to his home congregation in Bismarck, ND. This left the congregations on their own with doing lay services. Pastor Terrel Kesterson agreed to serve as the vacancy pastor, conducting communion services once a month.

March and April of 2010 were spent replacing old and used galvanized water lines from the main service to inside the church with new plastic lines. Volunteer help from Ken and Sue Martin helped keep the cost to a minimum. Every Saturday afternoon was spent cleaning up kitchen area to get it ready for worship services.

Celebration for the 50th Anniversary of The Church of the Lutheran Confession was held at various churches with in the Synod. St. John’s and Peace’s celebration was held on May 23rd with Pastor Terrel Kesterson conducting the special service. A potluck meal was served after the service.

Calls were sent out to several pastors with answers being returned. God once again granted His blessing on His flock for in May, 2010 Pastor **David Naumann** accepted our second call to him. Installation services were held on August 1, 2010 with a BBQ held at the church. He is continuing to do God’s work and preaching to us God’s Word.

100 YEARS! 2012

Celebration of St. John’s 100th year is on May 27th 20. A number of projects were put into action. The sanctuary was in need of updating. The ceiling peak was

repaired, walls and ceiling got a fresh coat of paint, and track lighting was installed in the front. Photo albums, scrapbooks, and church history have been updated as well. Invitations were sent out and everyone has great expectations of God’s continued blessings for the big day.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

As Pastor Bertram Naumann wrote 25 years ago to us, it still holds for us today: “May the Lord of the Church, who by purest grace moved your forefathers to establish your congregation in times past, also continue to inspire you with that same undeserved love and mercy until the Great Day when the Church militant shall be transformed into the Church triumphant.”

OTHER BITS OF INTEREST

Nov.1961 – no artificial flowers be used on the altar

1962- Prof and Mrs. Pelzl became members from Mankato, MN

1963- Changing voters age from 21 to 18.

1965- Communion Sunday was moved to the 3rd Sunday of the month
a layman may serve the pastor communion
automatic sprinkler system put in.

1968- Light pole installed in parking lot;

1970- new cross and sign built; 6 long tables were purchased;

1971- parsonage on 11th Street paid off-payment of \$49 a month be put to raising pastor’s salary.

1972- 18 year olds were now allowed to vote in meetings in obedience of US law

1974- new gas furnace installed;

1979 – speaker system put in

1983- Pews are upholstered

1988 – Material for new altar hangings was purchased with Vera Finnell sewing them together.

1985, 1990, 1998, 2012- Hosted Pacific Coast Pastoral Conferences

2000, 2009-Traveling VBS

1979, May 1999, 2005 ,2010 – ILC Tour Choir

1991- cordless sound system

July 2006- New linoleum for the parsonage kitchen floor was installed.

High speed internet service was installed that year too.

March, 2012 – New carpeting in all upstairs rooms at the parsonage

Many joint picnics with Peace in various area parks and at the Lowary home.

Vicars who interned at St. John’s and Peace: David Naumann, Matthew Hanel