

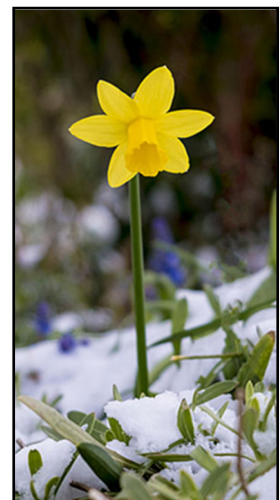


St. John's Lutheran Church, New Ulm, MN  
April, 2023 *Fortress*

## God's Idea of Spring

Does it seem like Spring is here... yet??! What a winter we've had! As I write this, the temperature is anticipated to get above freezing (barely) for a couple days. But... there are three more inches of snow in the forecast for the end of the week. Ungh.

According to [www.BestPlaces.com](http://www.BestPlaces.com) (a website that suggests the best places to live in the US), New Ulm gets an average annual snowfall of 39 inches. According to [www.HowMuchWillItSnow.com](http://www.HowMuchWillItSnow.com) we've already received 62 inches of snow this winter. That's 78% higher than historical average this far into the winter. (We had 26 inches all of last winter for comparison.) Ungh. Is Spring here yet?!



Well, we have God's promise that Spring will come... eventually. He said in Genesis 8:22, ***“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”***

Eventually, Spring will come. The snow will melt. The flowers will sprout. The grass will grow. (And the mosquitoes will return. Sorry.)

But God also speaks of an even better Spring that he's already brought about. He says in Isaiah 61:11, ***“For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.”*** (Isaiah 61:11)

As you see the grass turn from its dormant brown to its vibrant green, as you see the flowers pop up in their beds, as you plant your gardens or plant your crops this Spring, remember how God has made righteousness spring up for you.

How did he do that? Isaiah 61 begins like this: ***“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to***

***bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor..."***

This is a clear reference to Jesus. He himself said so. (Cf. Luke 4:14-19.) He proclaimed the gospel to impoverished sinners. He comforted those whose hearts were broken in contrition over their sin. He proclaimed (and won) freedom for sinners held captive to sin, death, and satan. And he did this not just for a few, but ***"the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness ... spring up before all nations."*** That means it's for you and me too. By Jesus' perfect life lived in our place, by his innocent death on the cross that removed our sin, we have been, ***"Clothed... with garments of salvation and arrayed... in a robe of his righteousness..."*** (Isaiah 61:10). Easter is the proof. Paul put it this way: ***"He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification."*** (Romans 4:25)

Now, knowing that our sins are forgiven, that we are at peace with God, that we too will rise from the dead just as Jesus has risen, another Spring takes place: ***"For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make... praise spring up before all nations."*** (Isaiah 61:11) Now, we are eager to live for God in thanks as we speak and sing our praise to him and as we live lives that praise his name! We're eager to do whatever is pleasing to him to show our gratitude and thanks!

So take heart. Spring will eventually come. The snow will melt. The flowers will sprout. The grass will grow. (And, yes, the mosquitoes will return.) But even more, take heart that your sins are forgiven. You have Jesus' righteousness that covers you. You will live even as our Savior now lives! Now praise him with lives of service moved by hearts full of gratitude that Spring has already come!

Your servant and brother in Christ,  
Pastor Rob Guenther

## April Sermon Texts

April 2	Philippians 2:5-11	The King Adjusts Our Attitudes
April 6	Exodus 12:1-27	The Lamb Has Saved the Sheep
April 7	7 Words	With Introductions
April 9	Matthew 28:1-10	Yes, It's Open!
April 16	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Preach Easter!
April 23	Luke 24:13-35	Believe All that the Prophets Have Spoken
April 30	1 Peter 2:19-25	Follow Jesus Through the Pain

**Bible Classes meet in the Church Basement**  
**The class can also be found online at [bit.ly/SJBibleClass](https://bit.ly/SJBibleClass)**

Sundays at 9:30 am	How to Use the Power of God	Prof. Luke Thompson
Thursdays at 10:30 am	Minor Prophets	Pastor Jeff Bovee
Thursdays at 7 pm	Great Prayers of the Bible	Pastor Rob Guenther
Fridays at 9:30 am	Women's Class: <i>The Screwtape Letters</i>	Pastor Rob Guenther

## Council Digest

The Church Council met on March 14. A summary of reports and actions from the meeting not reported elsewhere in the Fortress follows:

### Administrative Items

#### Ministrations

Transfers Out

Carl Boeder to St. Paul's, Saginaw, MI

Kevin and Gail Karstens to Hope, Manhattan, KS

#### Pastoral Acts

Funerals

24 Feb Rita Walters

7 Mar Marlene Rolloff

**Council Guest.** The council welcomed Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School Principal Tim Plath.

- Principal Plath presented a report, highlighting enrollment, staff calls, curriculum, facilities, and the Building on the Rock campaign.
- A question was asked about the non-WELS/ELS student tuition amount. The discussion included how these situations provide an outreach opportunity.

**President's Report.** Wayne Wels and Jason Enter have agreed to complete the 2022 audit. They will complete the audit later in March so that it will be ready to share at the April Council meeting and then the April voter's meeting. The council has set that every fifth year an outside audit will be conducted; the first outside audit will be in 2025. The council is thankful for Wayne and Jason!

**Deacon Report.** Deacon Brad Price reported March attendance numbers, including how we are getting close to pushing 600 on average each week for Sunday worship. Baptized membership is 886 and 713 communicant members. The Ash Wednesday services were canceled, and the 11 am service was live-streamed for the benefit of worshippers.

### **Board Activities**

**Board for Youth and Education.** Chairman Jon Hermanson shared that the board has begun its preparation work on the tuition, and off-set supports for sons and daughters of St. John's attending St. Paul's and WELS ministerial education schools. Art camps and mission trips are being planned for the 2023 summer. Josiah Steering's term as Sunday school superintendent will be wrapping up at the end of this year.

**Elders.** Chair Jason Mohror brought to the Council a recommendation for the ex-communication of Hannah Wilson. Pastors Bovee and Guenther reviewed the process for ex-communication as given in Matthew 18. They emphasized that the intent is to call the person to repentance. In this case, the person's lack of response has apparently rejected the need for repentance. The Council is bringing this recommendation to the voters at the next voters' meeting. The prayers of all our congregation and gospel-motivated encouragement, as able, are called for in the interim.

**Board of Evangelism.** Chair Jesse Zahrt reported that the Easter banners are up in the entryway. Watch for the change at Easter when the closed tomb will be replaced with an open tomb. We have requested a short article from the NU Journal and are working on a submission to Forward in Christ. The overall plan for our Christmas and Easter banner displays - which is: Start this year with static banners in the arches to be a visual reminder of the events. In the next year or two, we will be adding an audio narration that can broadcast to short-distance radio signal telling the story.

**Stewardship.** The board has established a sub-committee to assist Roger Klockziem research and report on the future finances of St. John's congregation. In the last fiscal year, St. John's spent over \$100,000 more than we brought in. While many factors contributed to this fact, the subcommittee is looking into all of the potential reasons. This group will also be positioned to advise on future options and opportunities as their work progresses.

**Trustees.** Chairman Scott Deters provided an update on the kitchen progress. While the kitchen will not be ready by Easter, adjustments are being carried out to ensure a joyful, and typical St John's Easter breakfast. The flooring is in. There is a water issue along the south wall, and plans are now in place to address that without holding up the other parts of the kitchen project. Cabinets are expected to be installed in the weeks following Easter.

### **Council Business**

**AED and First Aid.** The council received training for the AED machines installed in the narthex and the kitchen/fellowship area in the basement. You usually learn where it is after you need it! However, the Trustees proactively set up the training so that we have the tools and the know-how should they be needed. Another AED training is being considered for others (like ushers and various committee members) in the future. Watch for more information.

**St. John's Constitution.** Staff Minister Jim Dretske clarified that the congregation did not follow the correct procedure as it recently began to adopt changes to the constitution. The process needs to begin anew. The correct process is a reading of the changes at one Voters' meeting, followed by

votes on adopting the changes in two successive meetings. A 2/3 majority is needed both times to pass changes. The executive committee (president, vice-president, treasurer, financial secretary, and secretary, along with the pastors and staff minister) will meet to begin the process and have initial findings and recommendations for the council and the voters in April.

**Ministerial Education Endowment.** An initial gift was given by a member to begin a ministerial education endowment. The council approved the endowment which will go to the voters at their April meeting for ratification.

**Anniversary and Facility Planning.** The 75th Anniversary Committee and the Facilities task force have made some plans. The anniversary committee approved three anniversary initiative:

- Musical proclamation: Commissioned a concertato setting of “Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s Head”
- Ministerial education: Encourage gifts to the proposed ministerial education endowment fund
- Sanctuary renovation: Promote the renovation of the sanctuary.
- The facilities task force has identified a plan to renovate the sanctuary by beginning with renovating the pews and floor. They are working on a plan to share with the council and the voters in April.

#### **Future meetings:**

The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, at 7 pm.

The next quarterly voters’ meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 25, at 7 pm.

Jonathan M. Schaefer  
Congregational Chairman

## **Church Library**

Does it seem like spring is here, yet? We had more snow than points east of us so to be snow-free will take longer. The crocuses will have trouble appearing through the snow and the robins will be confused to begin with. But we know that the Resurrection was in spring. Life is eternal for believers in Jesus and his rising.

We have two fiction books to introduce this month. Reading “Where Treasure Hides” by Johnnie Alexander, I learned a lot about life during WWII in Europe. Allison is a Dutch artist helping her artistic family to save art from being stolen by the Nazis. Ian is an English soldier who survives several dangers and becomes a Monuments Man who helps saves art at the end of the war. They need God at every turn.

The second fiction book, “Seek Me With All Your Heart” by Beth Wiseman is the prequel to a book we already have. “Wonder of Your Love” was book one in the “Land of Canaan” series and “Seek Me” is book 2.



And some of the same characters were in the “Plain” series by the same author. In this prequel there are two families from Pennsylvania that move to a new Amish community in Ohio, and help each other to settle in, knowing God will help them.

This month, we also introduce another thorough study of a Bible book by Pastor Tim Smith of St. Paul’s, New Ulm. This set of 3 books is ACTS. Book one is chapters 1-9, book 2 is 10-18, and book 3 is 19-28. Pastor Smith must do much research and study to give us many details explaining the book of ACTS. God is blessing his work. The previous set we have is Luke in 4 books, equally well done.

So for Easter we say, “He is arisen!” and we answer, “He is risen indeed.”

LeiLani Rahn,  
Church Librarian

## **St. Paul’s School**

### **Continuing to Support Students**

The Board of Child Discipleship (BOCD), the governing body for our school, has received input and discussed the school’s tuition rates for several months. God has richly blessed our school as enrollment has increased from 272 students to 313 students over the past three years. The more, the merrier, right? Absolutely, yes! We strive to provide an excellent education.

While all parents are looking for an excellent education, safety is often at the top of their list in choosing schools. Thankfully, God has allowed us to provide a safe, excellent education for our students. At the same time, we recognize this all comes at a cost. The member congregations, St. Paul’s, St. John’s, New Ulm, and St. John’s, Sleepy Eye, are the largest contributors to the sizable cost of education for each child at our school. While the cost of education is currently around \$7,000 per child, congregations carry the largest part of this cost. Your support has allowed the congregations to keep costs as low as possible for parents, and for that, we offer our thanks.

Acknowledging that the budget continues to grow at both church and school, the BOCD seeks a way to thankfully accept the congregation’s support while also looking for ways to support needed programmatic improvements at the school. As announced at the February 12, 2023 voters’ meeting, the BOCD is seeking a tuition increase for the 2023-24 school year to help offset curricular improvements, staffing enhancements, and inflation challenges. The BOCD requests your prayers as we move ahead with our plans and continue to make plans for the future on how to best invite children to attend St. Paul’s Lutheran School and support families in raising children for time and eternity.

### **Capital Campaign**

Supporters of St. Paul’s School are preparing to celebrate God’s blessings on the third phase of our Campaign, It’s Time, with the 2023 Dig In Gala. The Gala was started in 2019, in thanksgiving to God for the start of the Building Project, and continues each year to support the Campaign. Adult

attendees to the Gala can expect to Dig In to food and fellowship, a silent auction, a live auction, other unique giving opportunities, and a program full of information and surprises sure to entertain.

The event will take place at Concordia Lanes in New Ulm, on Friday, May 5, from 6-9 pm. The dress is casual, or dress to the Cinco de Mayo theme!

Tickets for the Gala will go on sale on Monday, April 3. Single tickets will be sold for \$25, \$40 for a pair, or \$200 to reserve a table for you and your family and friends. You can purchase those tickets at <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stpaulsschoolnewulm>.

If you own a business and would like to sponsor the event, please contact Amy Rich at [stampinnut@me.com](mailto:stampinnut@me.com).

Pete Markgraf

## MN Valley Lutheran Camp formerly “Camp Shetek”

MN Valley Lutheran Camp exists to provide elementary age children to the opportunity to worship the Lord and grow in their Christian faith as they participate in outdoor activities under the direction of Christian Counselors.

The camp will be held from Sunday, June 18 - Friday, June 23 at Sibley State Park in New London.



To register and find more information go to [www.campshetek.org](http://www.campshetek.org).

### *In Loving Memory*



<i>Marlene Rolloff</i>	Undesignated	\$100
	75 <sup>th</sup> Ann. Concertato	\$100
<i>Rita Walters</i>	Kitchen Fund	\$10
	Undesignated	\$100

# Our Synod at Work

## The WELS Annual Report: Called to Prepare

This month we continue reviewing the WELS Annual Report to Members by looking at the section entitled “Called to Prepare.”

According to the report, “the purpose of WELS’ ministerial education program is the preparation of candidates for the public ministry of the gospel. Pastors, teachers, staff ministers, and missionaries are prepared to proclaim Christ’s love in the congregations, schools, and mission fields of our fellowship. WELS supports ministerial education on three levels at four schools—Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wisconsin; Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota; Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, Wisconsin; and Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Michigan.” We will look at each of those schools:

### **Martin Luther College**

Martin Luther College is, of course, located right here in New Ulm. Graduation last year was on May 14, when one hundred seventy students graduated. The college does the following:

1. Prepares men for pastoral training at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary;
2. Prepares men and women for service as teachers and staff ministers in the synod’s churches, schools, and other institutions;
3. Prepares men and women for other church ministries, both full- and part-time, responding to the needs of WELS;
4. Prepares international students for ministry in partnership with WELS mission fields; and
5. Provides programs of continuing education that meet the ministerial needs of WELS.

### **Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary**

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary prepares men to begin pastoral ministry by providing them with spiritual, theological, and professional training. Students attend classes for two years, serve as full-time vicars during their third year, and then attend classes and write a thesis in their fourth year. Students receive opportunities to serve in a variety of ministries and to experience other cultures.

The seminary also offers a program called “Grow in Grace,” which offers continuing education courses for existing pastors, provides a mentoring initiative for new graduates, contains a clearinghouse of resources for pastors, and also has an annual retreat for pastors who are celebrating milestones in their ministries.

### **Preparatory Schools**

Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, Wisconsin, and Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, Michigan, prepares high school students for future service as pastors, teachers, and staff ministers. Both of the schools offer “Taste of Ministry” opportunities for students, which include shadowing called workers to learn more about their work. Students also are given firsthand gospel experiences on campus and during mission trips.

Next month we will continue our review of the Annual Report by looking at the section entitled “Called to Proclaim,” which looks at home and world missions.

Gerald Woodley



## St. John's congregation will observe its 75th Anniversary in 2023!



The planning committee has chosen Sunday, August 6 as the special day of celebration.

Two services with communion will be held at 8 and 10 am. We will not have a Saturday evening service that weekend.

Former St. John's pastor David Kolander will be the guest preacher.

A fellowship meal is also being planned.

Watch for more details in upcoming church bulletins and newsletters.

### Staff Minister

**Thank You** – It has been my pleasure serving you as Staff Minister at St. John's. I thank God that he has led the congregation to make my call permanent during the January voter's meeting. I pray for God's continued guidance and strength to fulfill the duties entrusted to me. Although the call was extended in January, my report for February had been submitted prior to the voter's decision. In late February, I had knee replacement surgery and had not submitted a report for March. Now that surgery is over, I am excited to continue my service among you. God has granted me amazing healing—he strengthens me more and more each day! Thank you for your support as well as your prayers for success in surgery and recovery.

**Online Church Directory** – The Pew Directories are now in place. I am so glad to see them used and that many more members have been included since the first edition in 2022. The online app continues to update as members are added or if members update pictures or information. Download the computer or phone app in Apple Store or Google Play (Android) by entering Instant Church Directory. Downloads are also available at [www.instantchurchdirectory.com](http://www.instantchurchdirectory.com) 1) Download the app for your device; 2) Open the app; 3) Select St. John's New Ulm for our directory; 4) Enter the email address that has been used for your account; 5) Create a Password for security; 6) Verify your account by going to your email and clicking on the link; and 7) Sign in again with email and password. A green Church Directory Icon will appear on your phone. One Click is all it takes to see the latest updates to our directory. Click on mobile phone numbers to text or call, click on addresses to bring up Google Maps and the location destination. These are just some of the features of this app – Really neat! If you accidentally grab a pew directory when you dismiss and find it when you get home, please bring it back and give to one of the ushers. They will find the right spot for it. Thanks!

***Church Board Brochures*** – Please Take! These are located to the right of the door going out from church to the new narthex. I will keep a supply of these information brochures in the racks. Take each of five board brochures to find out more about the work done in various areas of ministry at St. John's. Charts on the back show the range and extent of ministry done by each board as well as connected committees that strive to help each board. Brochures are a source of information to those who may be interested in serving God in various ways at St. John's. Each fall there are vacancies in each board and committee. Consider serving when asked. Prayerfully consider how you can use the talents God has given you to serve him.

***Visiting the Homebound*** - I again have the privilege of joining the pastors in visits to members who are homebound—sharing the Gospel in Word and Sacrament. If you are not on our list to be visited but would like to be included, please call me at 507-217-7604 to get on the list. Six volunteers from St. John's help out every other week when available to bring residents to the chapel service at Oak Hills Living Center and return them to their rooms after. If you are available from 3:30 until 5:00 on Tuesdays, consider adding your name to the list of helpers. Thank you, Oak Hills Volunteers for your faithful service!

***Kitchen Project Volunteers*** – I am hoping that most of the kitchen project is completed by the time this publication comes out. At the time of writing this, the floor tile was being laid by a number of volunteers. Other volunteers offered their time and skills earlier to prepare the walls and painting the kitchen with primer and two coats of paint. It has been a huge project and it was exciting to see the progress made each week. Although later completed than hoped, the new kitchen will serve the members of St. John's for many years. Thank you to those who were involved in planning this project as well as those who volunteered their help. Thank you also to those who continue to give financially to make this project possible. There is still funds needed although voters have approved the building fund will be a resource used to complete the project. Any excess funds received for this project will go into the building fund.

***Streamed/Recorded Services*** – Our online services have been increasing in attendance—many from outside the New Ulm area – Praise the Lord! It is a nice way to stay connected to Jesus when you physically can't get to church. Hit the Subscribe button to be notified whenever we have posted a new service. Please fill out a Quick Response Survey online to let us know how we are doing and leave a comment. Go to: <https://bit.ly/SJRecord-Stream> We are always striving to improve our streaming services.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Dretske

# Archives

***“Many Women Do Noble Things,  
But You Surpass Them All”***

- Proverbs 31:29

In March's newsletter we took a look at the genesis of the St. John's Ladies' Aid. We had a snapshot of some of the founding ladies, their interest in foreign and world mission as well as their tireless industry in collecting and sewing clothes for orphaned Apache children on the reservation in Arizona. They also prepared packages for German refugees and the orphaned children of the Korean Conflict (1950-1953).

As we comb through the minutes of meetings from 1949- 1962, we also discovered that the congregational Ladies' Aid is a microcosm of the vital work of our synod-wide Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (established 1963). The spirit that provided comfort and relief for foreigners in the 1950s was still at work. For instance, in 2011, when St. John's quilting group sent quilts to the victims of the earthquake/tsunami and nuclear power plant disaster in Honshu, Japan.

At each monthly meeting the Ladies' Aid appointed a committee of three to visit the sick, hospitalized and homebound at St. John's. Their visits were in addition to the visits the pastor would make. In 1950 the committees added new members to the visitation list.

The Ladies Aid of that era also served as the Altar Guild. At first the ladies took turns “making arrangements for both sides of the altar” from their own gardens, as the season allowed. Before long a sign-up sheet was drawn up to give all members a chance to participate. Special attention was given to Palm Sunday, which also happened to be Confirmation Day. The cost of carnations which confirmands wore as corsages and boutonnieres was taken from the Ladies' Aid treasury as well. On one occasion, a confirmand's family was not able to pay the \$5 for gown rental. The ladies quietly absorbed that as well.

A Cradle Roll was begun in the 1950s. This was a way of keeping before the congregation's eyes the progress of our children from the time of their birth and baptism through the age of kindergarten, grade school and confirmation. It was a solid way of putting into practice our Savior's commission not only to “baptize them” but to follow up with “teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you.” In this way they helped parents to keep the “one thing needful” before the eyes of each of His little lambs. The pastor would also be aware of those who were about to enter confirmation instruction. Finally, each could be apprised of the opportunity that St. Paul's Lutheran School offered the parents to instruct their children in the Word with Kindergarten through 8th grade instruction. In those early decades, St. Paul's School charged no tuition to parents of St. John's children. Their brotherly generosity moved St. John's to reciprocate by sending St. Paul's a token \$10 per student per year in the early 1950s.

Our first pastor, Martin Albrecht, no doubt had to be away from home many evenings since he juggled both his music teaching professorship at DMLC and his part time pastorate at St. John's. The ladies understood what a sacrifice that was for Mrs. Albrecht who had just had a baby. A token of their appreciation was recorded in the minutes of November 9, 1949: “A Gift of money to Mrs. Albrecht for her small baby daughter (Janet).”

Perhaps we can get a pulse of the activities of the Ladies' Aid with the following sampling of their many acts of service:

1949 "price various tables for Ladies Aid for voters"

"Appropriate Christmas cards selected/displayed for (congregational) purchase  
\$1.00 for a box of 50."

1950 "Permission granted for families of our church to use the church kitchen for the reunion of the  
graduating class of 1945"

Jun. "Sandwiches, cake and coffee after installation of Rolland Gurgel"

"A gift of a private communion kit to Rev. Phillip Jahnke

Oct. "A gift for Rev. & Mrs. Gurgel's youngest daughter, due to her brief confinement in  
the hospital."

- Purchase new gas pipe for stove

- Purchase dishes, tableware, cups, saucers piecemeal as "deals"/funds allow

Nov. The ladies moved to "consider various linens for altar fair linen, communion napkins"

1951

Jan. The (above) linen in hand, motion to "meet at Mrs. Bruns home to cut and hem linen  
napkins"

- Have pedestals made for flower stands on each side of the altar

- Sew aprons for kitchen staff at DMLC "Embroidered dish towels (remember those? -  
ed.) donated by a member of the Ladies' Aid"

Dec. At the end of each year The Ladies' Aid gave a gift of \$50, (occasionally \$75) to the St.  
John's Building Fund. Similar gifts were given to The Bethesda Lutheran Home (for people  
with special needs) in Watertown, WI.

1952 "Five teacher DMLC graduates of St. John's gift of \$5 each"

1953

Dec. Special collection of food, clothing cash for member family in need

1954

Feb. Cookies and ice cream at Pastor Reim's installation

1954

April First mention of a Family Night to welcome new members and confirmands.

Pastor Reim's suggestion that the Ladies' Aid help organize a Pot Luck for 5:30 pm, May 2,  
1954

May "Pastor Reim suggested the Ladies' Aid serve a light lunch after VBS - ice cream, cake,  
coffee, lemonade."

1955 Price (glass/silver) communion flagon for church. To be paid by Voters.

1956 Purchased highway markers for church signs

-Purchased a blackboard for the basement church

1957 Organize and chaperone a Young Peoples' Society outing (often swimming or roller skating) and help with the YPS supper.

1958 Purchase new drapery for the 517 S. Washington Ave. parsonage. Total: \$112

1961 "Buy a toaster (for church kitchen) with Gold Bond Stamp Books and coupons

1962

Jan. Twenty-eight boxes of cookies were packed as Christmas cheer packages to "inmates of the County Home (a.k.a. "The Poor Farm on Cottonwood Rd.- ed.) and our members at Highland Manor and also the sick and shut-in of our congregation."

-Paint purchased for pastor's office (where mother's room is now) and floor and walls of the altar area (now partitioned behind the white board in the basement)

- Twelve new The Lutheran Hymnals [(c) 1941-ed.] ordered. Old hymnals repaired.

Sep. Buy a second guest book (for church services- ed.)

- "Letters written and sent together with weekly bulletins to servicemen, students away at school.

1962

Mar. -Paint furnished by Ladies' Aid for Larry Stilwell to paint chancel walls, ceiling and floor this past week (basement church - ed.).

Oct. - "Several dates will be picked to dice carrots at the college for all the ladies of St. John's and posted on the bulletin board."

- One month later: "the Ladies responded well."

1963 Ladies Aid committees were formed to

(1) call Ladies' Aid members

(2) Help maintain The Cradle Roll

(3) Teach VBS

(4) Babysit for families of adults taking Bible instruction with Pastor Nitz

(5) Help with clerical work (i.e. composing Yearbook)

(6) Change the track rack

(7) Care of linen and altar ware

(8) Visit new church members (Mrs. Nitz volunteered)

(9) Visit sick members

(10) Send cards to hospitalized members

(11) Offer transportation for those unable to attend church.

*"Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;  
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.  
Honor her for all that her hands have done,  
and let her works bring her praise praise at the city gate"*  
- Proverbs 31:30,31

Respectfully Submitted,  
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