

*Welcome to the celebration of 100 years of ministry for
St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
December 3, 1904 - December 3, 2004
“Where Town and Country Meet Christ”*

Welcome Comments - Pastor Terri Peterson

Thank yous - Pastor Terri Peterson

Basic History

Invitation to future events

Sunday Worship - 9am

Christian Education - 10:15am

Children's Christmas Program, Dec 19, 6pm

Christmas Eve Music Program - 7pm

Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight Service - 7:30pm

Mission Statement: St John Evangelical Lutheran Church comes together to proclaim God's love for all through preaching, teaching, sharing, sacraments (Baptism and Holy Communion), witnessing, doing good works and learning more about God. We are able to do these things by God's grace through the death and resurrection of God's son, Jesus Christ.

Ministers of St John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Members of St John minister to each other and to the community for 100 years.

Pastors Serving the Congregation

Before organization of 1904:

G. C. Smith - March 1, 1891 to February 1, 1894

J. H. Smith - April 1, 1895 to July 1, 1902

E. M. Potts, Ph.D. - Supply 1903 - 1904

After organization:

E. M. Potts, Ph.D. - December 17, 1904 to November 10, 1907

L. P. Pence - November 24, 1907 to June 1, 1922

H. C. TerVehn - October 1, 1923 to October 1, 1931

Charles W. Cassel, S.T.M. - February 1, 1932 to 1942

William H. Kibler - May 8, 1942 to April 23, 1945

H. F. Hamburger - February 1, 1946 to June 30, 1957

Larry E. Kettlehake - January 12, 1958 to April 9, 1961

Dean C. Cheek - December 10, 1961 to December 31, 1965

Nicholas K. Mays - April 3, 1966 to December 31, 1968

John K. Bispala - August 25, 1969 to December 1, 1973

Donald Rings Brewer - April 1, 1974 to March 15, 1980

Daniel C. Hoehn - July 1, 1980 to October 30, 1982

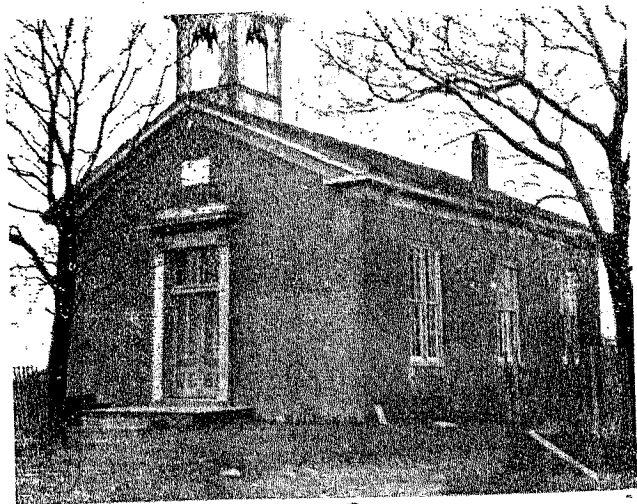
John H. Keithly - April 1, 1983 to September 1, 1990

Devon Strong - July 1, 1991 to August 25, 1996

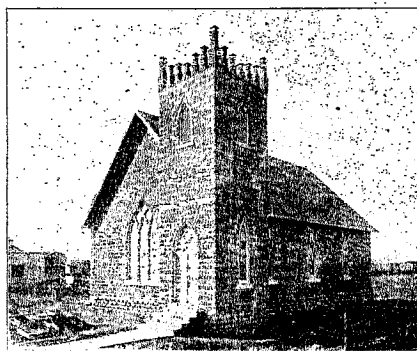
Larry E. Kettlehake - interim, 1996 - 1998

Terri L. E. Peterson - July 25, 1998 to present

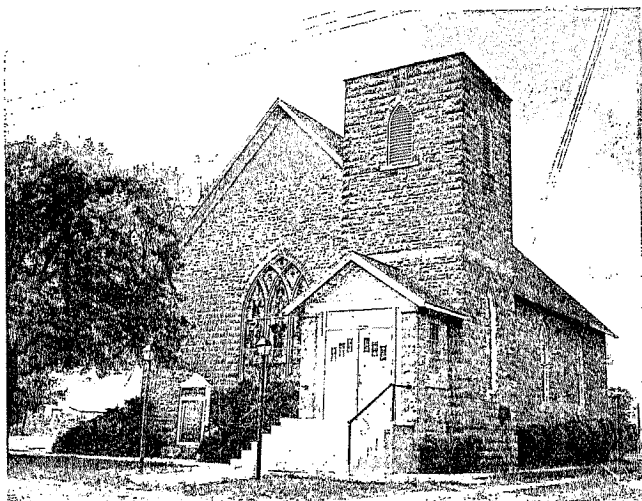
Old Methodist Church Building



Current Site - 1906



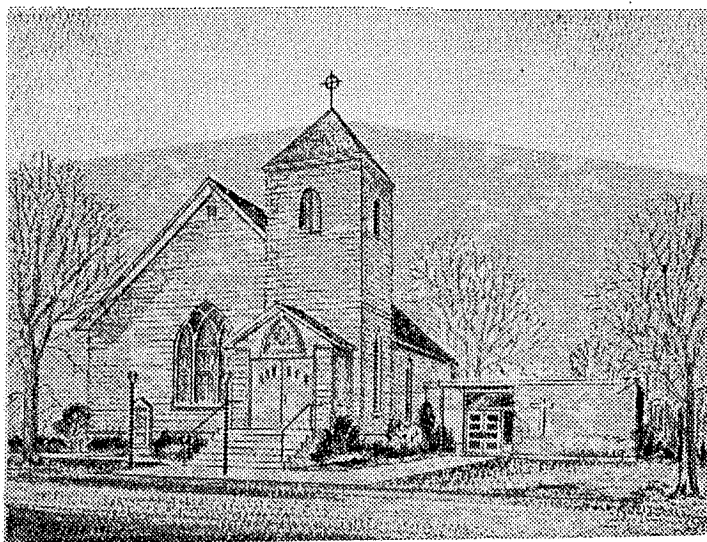
Current Site - 1950



Current Site - 1954



Current Site - 1960



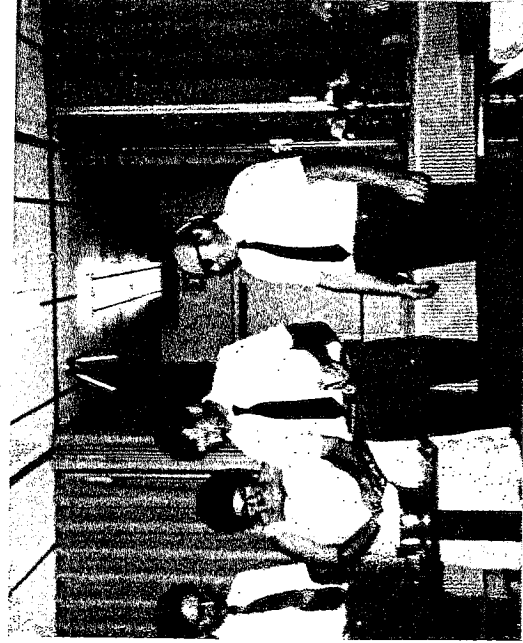
Current Site - 2004



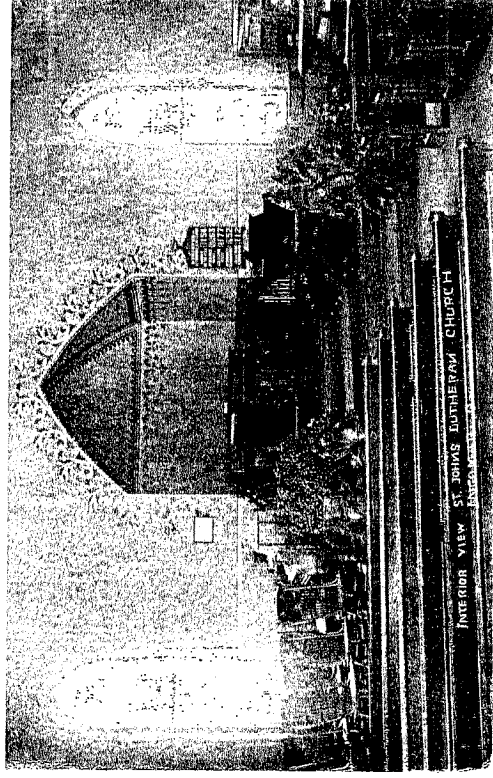
Mrs. Lois Kinstler donating "all the books and writings by and about Dr. Martin Luther from 1517 - 1522" to Hamma Seminary.



Burning of the Mortgage



Sanctuary prior to addition of classrooms

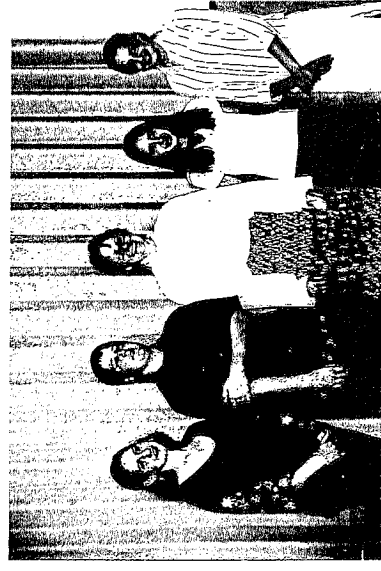


Lent Services 2002



Confirmation Class - 2003

Shauna Thompson, Jesse Dawson, Pr Terri Peterson, Beth Staybrook, Ginny Ingram



1930's Ice Cream Makers



Historical Sketch of St John Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingomar
"Where Town and Country Meet Christ"

1891 March 18 A small group of Lutherans met at the home of D. W. Summers and decided to organize a Lutheran congregation.

May 17 First communion service in the newly rented Methodist church building between Ingomar and Enterprise. Twenty-four people communed at the service with the Pastor G. C. Smith of Salem Lutheran Church, Lewisburg, officiating.

May/June A Union Sunday School was organized and maintained.

1894 September 16 A congregational meeting was held and the Methodist church building was purchased for \$250.

1904 January 21 First meeting of Willing Workers, the Ladies Aid Society for our congregation. Seventeen ladies formed the group, and elected Mrs. Ephraim Eby as president. The next president was Mrs. Henry Barton and she served in this office until 1933 when she was made president emeritus.

August State officials examined the building and found it unsafe for a place of worship. "I remember members holding the windows to keep all them from blowing in in a wind storm." Dr. Charles Cassel. The bell of this building was moved to the new building.

November 2 A congregational meeting was held and decided to "move to Ingomar."

November 19 The present site was purchased from John Unger for \$150.

December 3 The congregation was formally organized as the St John Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingomar, and a constitution adopted in keeping with the teaching and practice of the General Council. It is this date that marks our formal status as a congregation, and which we are celebrating in this One Hundredth Anniversary. The constitution was signed by seventeen members.

December 17 The Rev. E. M. Potts, Ph.D. of the Lewisburg church was formally called as the first official pastor of the new congregation. At that meeting a building committee was appointed, also.

1905 Early Spring The basement was dug by hand by members and friends.

August 27 The cornerstone laying ceremony.

1906 During this year the auditorium of the present nave was constructed. It is 36 feet wide and 56 feet long. Contractor was B. C. Crouse. The cost was \$5,400. The old bell's "melodious tone still peals forth its message every Sunday Morning, 'come to worship, come to worship'."

December 16 Dedication services were officiated over by the Rev. V. V. Christy, pastor at Ellerton and president of the District Synod of Ohio. Membership 32. Indebtedness \$750.

1907 Up until this time the congregation was officially independent, but in 1907 was received into the District Synod of Ohio of the General Council as a mission congregation, receiving financial help from the Synod for several years until it was able

to be self-supporting. The pulpit and two chancel chairs were gifts from the Lutheran Church at Germantown. Mrs. Robert Woodard and Mrs. George Ulrich added the third chair later. The pews were a gift from the Lutheran Church at Miamisburg and members of the congregation. The bookcase, library table and choir chairs were given by a class of young girls taught by Mamie Wachtel. A number of art windows were gifts of individual donors and other Sunday Schools and congregations. The large art window was a gift of the Willing Workers

A parish was formed of the Ingomar church and Grace church of West Carrollton. Later the congregation of St John's (Gebhart) of Miamisburg was added to the parish (1922).

Pastor L. P. Pence was called to this joint ministry.

1919 The church building was wired for electrical lights, lamps having formerly been used.

1920 With the formation of the United Lutheran Church in America, St John became a part of the Southern Conference of the Synod of Ohio of the United Lutheran Church of America.

1921 An addition was made to the southwest corner of the nave to be used as a Sunday School room. That addition is presently used for church offices. The cost was \$2,000. At the time the church statistics were: 129 baptized, 67 confirmed, 62 communing. Total budget for 1921, \$732.

1923 Pastor H. C. TerVehn was called to St. John.

1931 October 25 The congregation celebrated its 25th Anniversary. Pastor Potts came from Upper Sandusky to preach the Service, with a noon dinner in the basement and services in the afternoon and evening.

1932 Pastor Charles W. Cassel, S.T.M. was called to serve.

1941 Grace Church, West Carrollton went on its own and Ingomar remained in connection with the Gebhart Church as a parish.

1942 Pastor William H. Kibler was called to St. John.

1945 Raymond L. Nickel was ordained into the Gospel Ministry of the Lutheran Church, the only son of the congregation to become a pastor.

1946 Pastor H. F. Hamburger was called to serve at St. John.

1950 January 1 St John Lutheran Church of Ingomar decided to become self-supporting and called the Rev. H. F. Hamburger, who had served the parish since 1946, as its first full time pastor. In preparation for this, the parsonage two houses south of the church was purchased from R. O. Klepinger. "The pastor has rocks in his head, he wants us to become self-supporting!" Mr. Robert Woodard to his wife, Hester.

The second set of front doors were added to the church building around this time.

1954 Pipe Organ installed to glorify God with beautiful music. Great discussion occurred concerning this organ. Mr. Raymond Klepinger offered to pay the \$5,000.00 in order that the congregation could purchase this superior instrument. The organ was made in Hagerstown, Maryland. We continue to sing God's praises with this instrument.

1958 January Pastor Larry E. Kettlehake was called to serve the church.

July Preparation for the parish hall was begun with appointment of an Executive Building Committee and subcommittees.

1959 September 27. The cornerstone was laid.

1960 April 3. The new Parish Education Building was dedicated to the glory of God, with the sermon delivered by the Rev. Herbert Veler, president of the Ohio Synod.

1961 Pastor Dean C. Cheek was called.

1964 Fire in Sanctuary in the southwest corner. The pipe chamber was in the middle of the fire yet, it did not receive any fire or water damage.

1966 Pastor Nicholas K. Mays was called to serve.

1969 February West Alexandria Churches Organized for Community Action was organized. St John helped begin this ministry that continues to this day. Part of this ministry is a Community Worship Service in WA Peace Park, an annual Hymn Sing and Thanksgiving Service.

August Pastor John K. Bispala was called to serve St. John.

1972 Under the leadership of Pastor John Bispala, the congregation formed a joint parish with Shiloh Lutheran Church of Lewisburg, an arrangement which continued for about five years.

1974 Pr. Donald R. Brewer called to serve St John. Canopy added to the front of the church building around this time.

Bells, one and one half octaves, were purchased from Trinity Lutheran Church in Brookville. Later another half octave was added.

1976 Lent St John Lutheran Church of Ingomar and St John's Lutheran Church of Enterprise hold joint Wednesday Evening Lenten Services.

1980 Pr. Daniel C. Hoehn called to serve St. John.

July Consecration of the Communion table and linens.

October Lutheran Youth Organization put on a Haunted House for many years. People from all over the community attended this fun event.

1982 Gable roof put on Parish Hall replacing the flat room. Butch Spitler and Earl Hall guided this project. Ceiling fans installed in sanctuary.

1983 Pr. John H. Keithley called to serve St. John.

West Alexandria Food Bank began serving the community. Members of the congregation volunteered for this ministry.

1991 Pr. Devon Strong called to serve St. John. During Pr. Strong's time at St. John the congregation contracted to have the sanctuary plastered and painted.

1996 - 1998 Pr. Larry Kettlehake came as interim. During this time he worked with the council and property committee to put together a list of needed repairs and improvements. Many of these projects occurred after he left.

1998 July St John Evangelical Lutheran Church and Triumphant Cross Lutheran Church, Trotwood extended a call to the first female pastor at these congregations, Rev. Terri L. E. Peterson. Worship to be held at 8:30am at St John and 10:30am at Triumphant Cross.

1998 until present - renovations and updates of facilities. Monies to purchase the following items came from savings, Ice Cream Social profits and from special donors to the glory of God. Our congregation is very blessed by the generosity of many who help keep our property safe and beautiful.

Processional Cross handcrafted and donated to the Church by Tom Donaldson.

Pastor's office painted and carpeted. Furniture purchased for \$870. Carpet purchased for \$435.29

Kitchen cupboards refaced for \$4,620.00

Parish Hall doors installed for \$5,950.00

Computer for office purchased for \$1,111.00

Drapes for parish hall windows hung for \$532.90

Handicap lift in parish hall installed for \$9,635.00

New Church sign with movable letters and light in front of building for \$2,185.00

Storage shed purchased to store riding lawnmower costing \$1,026.95

Parking lot redone in preparation for expansion and possible paving - \$6,170.00

Freezer purchased for Ice Cream Social and ministry in the community - \$278.00

Sidewalk redone and ramp to Parish Hall door installed for \$3,370.00

Sanctuary door designed and crafted by Terry Bruns at Woodwright Lumber installed and dedicated to the service of God - \$6,070.00

Handbells repaired for \$558.50

New door purchased and installed on south side of the building opening to the office area costing \$252.86.

The furnace repairs and replaced purchased for \$9,940.00. Air conditioning added to our facilities for \$38,000.

Two pews in the front by the handicap lift were replaced by the pews used in the choir loft. These pews are shorter and leave room for wheelchairs, walkers and crutches.

2000 St John and Triumphant Cross agreed to move worship services back by one half hour. St John to worship at 9am and Triumphant Cross at 11am.

2001 November St John voted to call Pastor Terri full time beginning in January.

2002 January Pr Terri began serving St John full time.

2003 Christmas Tree purchased in honor of Richard Erbaugh. Planted in front of the Parish Hall the following January.

2004 Bathrooms painted and wallpapered. Nursery redecorated. Hallway in Parish Hall painted.

November Congregational meeting. The congregation voted to have the roof on the Sanctuary covered with a metal roof. The work will be done in the Spring of 2005. Cost approximately \$22,000.00. Attendance - 82 with 80 members communing.

December Christmas Tree purchased in honor of Judy Dixon. Will be planted on the property after the Christmas Season.

1998 until present Fundraising for those in need and other ministries for those in need.

Monies raised to help Eagan Rinehart with medical bills.

Monies raised to purchase hearing aid device for Rachael Peterson.

Monies raised for West Alex Food Bank.

Monies raised for Habitat for Humanity, Preble County Chapter.

Monies raised for Birthright of Eaton.

Monies given for World Hunger Appeal, ELCA.

Monies given for Hurricane Victims around the world including Florida.

Monies given for Disaster relief around the world.

Operation Christmas Child - Shoeboxes, items collected and packaged in shoe boxes. In 2004, we put together 70 boxes in one week.

Adopt a family for Christmas and continue to help through the year.

Donating food and time to the West Alexandria Food Bank.

Heifer Project Ark purchased for \$5,110.50. The Heifer Project provides animals to families around the world to give them an income and hope.

Anniversary Events

December Commemorating 100 years of ministry Kick-off and carry-in

Displayed sign Celebrating 100 years in yard

February 22, 2004 - Dr. and Sandy Mays visits, carry-in*

Raffle of Slate with church painted on it

March 31, 2004 - Pastor & Lois Keithly visits, carry-in

Cookbooks organized by Women's Group - WELCA

April 18, 2004 - Pastor Brewer visits, carry-in*

July 16, 2004 - Pastor Strong and family visits, carry-in*

Commemoration of ground breaking for Parish Hall

Pewter Ornaments of St. John

Shepherd Heart's Wooden Replica of Church with History

T-shirts celebrating Anniversary

Scott Hittle sketched church for notecards

October 31, 2004 Balloon Release

Quilt made by St. John's members and quilt committee Laura Emrick, Robin Robbins, and June Souleyrette with names of members and friends of the congregation.

Commissioned Bud Robbins and associates to build display case for Parish Hall, set in place, December.

Bishop Holloway preaching at Anniversary Service, December 5, 2004.

Time capsule purchased to be place in 2006 on anniversary of building.

Profits from Anniversary Items going to World Hunger Appeal, West Alexandria Food Bank and Heifer Project.

Currently St John worships at 9am with Christian Education following service. We have 3 choirs - Adult choir, Junior Choir and Bell Choir. We also have active Men's and Women's Group which meet monthly. A group meets weekly for Bible Study on Sunday Evenings. We participate in WACOCA Community VBS and hold a Congregational VBS each summer. We also continue to participate in WACOCA. There are many opportunities for ministry within and outside of the congregation.

Current Council members: Tim Emrick, Kathy and Fred Boebel, Peggy Stayrook, Janette and Scott Hittle, John Ludwig, John Cotterman, and Steve Studebaker.