

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 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.

May 17

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

August

State officials examined the building and found it unsafe for a place of worship. "I remember members holding the windows to keep all of them from blowing in in a windstorm," Dr. Charles

Cassell said. 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. The constitution was signed by seventeen members.

1904

January 21

The 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.

December 17

The Reverend 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 was laid.

1906

During this year the auditorium of the present nave was constructed. It is 36 feet wide and 56 feet long. The 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 Reverend V. V. Christy, pastor at Ellerton and president of the District Synod of Ohio. Membership was 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 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. Several stained glass windows were gifts of individual donors and other Sunday Schools and congregations. The large stained glass window was a gift of the Willing Workers.

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 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. The total budget for 1921, \$732.00.

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 of 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 to date.

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 Reverend H. F. Hamburger, who had served the parish since 1946, as its 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 said to his wife, Hester. The second set of front doors were added to the church building around this time.

1954

A pipe organ was installed to glorify God with Beautiful music. A great discussion occurred concerning this organ. Mr. Raymond Klepinger offered to pay the \$5,000.00 so 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 today.

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 for the new parish hall was laid.

1960

April 3

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

1961

Pastor Dean C. Cheek was called.

1964

There was a fire in the 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 West Alexandria 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

Pastor 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

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

1980

Pastor 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 event.

1982

Gable roof put on Parish

Hall replacing the flat roof. Butch Spittler and Earl Hall guided this project. Ceiling fans were installed in the sanctuary.

1983

Pastor 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

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

1996-1998

Pastor 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, Reverend Terri L. E. Peterson. Worship to be held at 8:30 am at St. John and 10:30 at Triumphant Cross.

2000

St John and Triumphant

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

2001

November

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

2002

January

Pastor Terri Peterson began serving St. John full time.

2003

Christmas tree purchased in honor of Richard Erbaugh. It was planted in front of the parish hall the following January.

2004

Bathrooms painted and wallpapered. The nursery was redecorated.

November

The congregation voted to have the roof on the Sanctuary covered with a metal roof

Celebrated our 100 year anniversary.

Bud Robbins made a display cabinet for the parish hall

December

Christmas tree purchased in honor of Judy Dixon.

1998-2004

Renovations and updates to the facilities continued, including the addition of a processional cross

handcrafted and donated by Tom Donaldson, Kitchen cupboards were refaced, Handicap lift was installed, a new church sign with movable letters and light was installed in front of the building. The sidewalk was redone and ramp to the parish hall door was installed. A new sanctuary door was designed and crafted by Terry Bruns at Woodwright Lumber. The furnace was repaired and replaced and air conditioning was installed.

2006

New carpet installed in the sanctuary. Organ moved and revamped.

2007

Replaced doors to the parish hall Altar refurbished and moved

2008

Grand piano donated in memory of George and Martha Ellen.

Concrete Pad poured beside Parish Hall entrance.

2009

Improvements made to the front entrance by repairing plasterwork and painting.

Pastor Laura Cavendish officially appointed to serve as Interim Pastor at St. John replacing Pastor Terri Peterson. Handicap parking established and signs posted.

Railing installed at the

rear entrance to the church.

New PA system purchased.

2010

New chairs, chair carts, and table carts purchased.

2011

Handicap bathroom installed.

Lighting in the sanctuary was replaced and upgraded for more efficiency.

New gutters were installed on the outside of the office section of the building.

A new swing set was purchased and installed using private donations.

Work on plans for a memory garden begins.

A Willing Worker's quilt from 1923 was purchased and given to St. John.

An outdoor Nativity was purchased before the Christmas season.

2012

New windows installed in the Parish Hall; Parish Hall interior painted and new blinds installed.

Shelter House completed; concrete walkway poured from the back door of Parish Hall to the shelter.

Church exterior trim painted; outside fence and exterior doors in Parish Hall painted.

Parking lot leveled and graded.

New kitchen ranges installed in Parish Hall.

2013

Water filtration system installed.

New all-weather floor mats with the church's mission statement purchased for main entrances to the church.

Church parking lot and secondary lot across the road paved.

2014

New removable handrail installed on the front entrance to the church.

2015

A new sound was purchased and installed in the sanctuary.

Lighting is updated in the kitchen, men's restroom and offices.

Memory garden is completed.

A special reception in honor of the historical quilt occurred in November.

2016

Two new computers are purchased for the office.

New concrete border installed around church sign.

New water heater installed.

2017

Safety and security were a top priority. Hosted a CPR/AED/First Aid Training.

To improve the church's identification, two new address signs were put up outside.

A new Do Not Park sign by the road replaced the old faded one.

To improve impediment within the church, the metal coat racks in the

sanctuary to be removed after Christmas; other small items also removed.

Weaver Electric installed exit signs and emergency lights in the sanctuary and fellowship hall. This will allow safe exit of the building if a power outage should occur.

New smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors installed as recommended by the fire department during the last inspection.

2018

Two lids were ordered-one for bread and one for gluten-free wafers to avoid cross-contamination.

A new brass plated chalice was ordered in October; Money donated by Earla Donaldson; chalice engraved in memory of Tom Donaldson.

A new communion veil was ordered in October; the old veil is getting too thin.

On March 25th, the wireless doorbell was installed on front church doors. This will notify the head usher when someone wants to enter the church during worship.

November 10th date set for CPR recertification.

Stephen Ministry implemented at St. John.