

The Big Anniversary Day

September 17 is Anniversary Day! This is the day all our celebrations come together as we join in thanking our gracious God for 150 years of hearing his Word right here in Waterloo. What a blessing! What a joyous occasion!

The celebration will begin at church, where Synod President Mark Schroeder will preach in both services, and former pastor Rev. Steve Schmeling will be the liturgist. Special music is provided by guest organist Dr. John Nolte of Martin Luther College, our own choirs and instrumentalists. We all will join our voices, too, in thankfulness and praise.



WELS President
Rev Mark Schroeder

The Anniversary Dinner at Firemen's Park will include beef and chicken, potatoes, vegetables, salad, and dessert. There will be displays and special decorations, with valet parking. Just drive up to the door and, if you wish, someone will park your car for you! Church President Harland Walker will be the emcee for the afternoon program, a light hearted look back over these 150 years. It is time to get in your reservations and be part of this memorable day!

Although the deadline for making reservations has passed, the caterers can wait a bit longer for a definite count. We don't want anyone to miss this special day, so contact the school office now to be sure there still is a place for you. There will not be another celebration like this for another 50 years, so now is the time.

On Epiphany Sunday 150 years ago a small group gathered in borrowed space to be a part of the first Lutheran church service in Waterloo. God has brought St John's a long way since then. Now we worship in a beautiful new church building and the small group has grown to include hundreds, even thousands. We are still hearing the same message (although I am glad it is now in English), still comforted by Christ's words of forgiveness, still rejoicing in knowing that Jesus's death and resurrection assures me of a place in heaven. Let us all join our hearts, hands and voices in humble thanks. God has surely blessed us all!

NMP