

Sesquicentennial Celebration Continues at St John's

St. John Lutheran Church in Waterloo continues its year-long 150th anniversary celebration on May 14th. Special services will focus on the church's mission. A luncheon and program will follow in the school cafeteria.

Featured preacher will be the Rev. James Bartz, son of Robert and Darlene Bartz, formerly of Waterloo. After finishing St John elementary school in Waterloo, Bartz attended Northwestern Prep in Watertown. He graduated from Northwestern College in 1984, completed his studies at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 1988, and now is the pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, Michigan. He previously served as a missionary in Malawi, Africa, and will talk about his experiences there.



Pastor James Bartz

The word mission simply means a sending. In 1867 the Newville Church sent its Pastor Snell to organize St John Lutheran Church in Waterloo. From Waterloo, Pastor Denninger drove his horse and buggy to Kroghville in 1875 to gather Immanuel Lutheran congregation of rural Deerfield. Also from Waterloo, Pastor Pankow in 1897 rode the train to Hubbleton to organize and serve Immanuel Lutheran Church there.

In following years, Pastors Thurow, Nitz, and Essmann were active on the mission boards of the Wisconsin Lutheran Synod, directing new congregations throughout the world. Pastor Essmann began the synod's Multi-Language Publication effort which reaches tens of thousands of people in foreign countries around the globe with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Ten sons of St John congregation have trained to be pastors and missionaries. They are: John Helmes, who graduated from the seminary in 1891, August Zich in 1893, Walter Pankow 1915, Frederick Nitz 1948, Paul Nitz 1952, Marcus Nitz 1957, James Bartz 1988, Kristian Taves 1989, Joel Schwartz 2008, and Jacob Schwartz 2012.

The community is invited to join the members of St John on Missions Sunday, May 14. Morning services are at 8:00 and 10:30, with a luncheon and program beginning at noon.