



St. John Lutheran Church Begins Sesquicentennial Celebration

St. John Lutheran Church in Waterloo will hold special worship services on Sunday, January 8, 2017 to mark the beginning of its sesquicentennial year. It was 150 years ago, on Epiphany Sunday, January 8, 1867, that the very first German Lutheran church service in Waterloo was held. The Rev. von Snell came from Newville with his horse and buggy to conduct the service. The congregation met at the public school building on Polk Street, and arranged to have Rev. Snell return every two weeks for the first year.

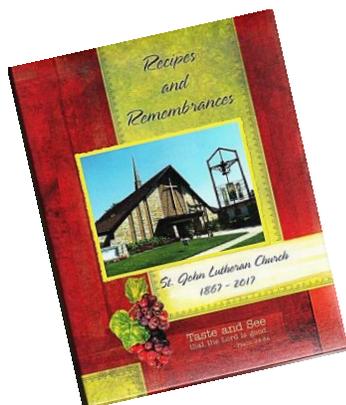


Nineteen men signed the constitution that spring and by the next year a wood frame church building was in place on Jefferson Street. A one room brick school and a parsonage soon followed. Both those building are still standing, although used for other purposes. The congregation quickly outgrew that little church. A new and larger church went up on Madison Street in 1893, and a four room school in 1922. The little white church was moved, became Deppe and Taves Implement Shop, and was eventually torn down.

Throughout the 150 years of its existence, St. John has faithfully preached God's Word to thousands of people. English language services were added in 1918, and the congregation continued to grow. Now St. John worships in its third church building, completed in 1984, on Madison Street. New construction at the school replaced the aging 1922 building with a new and modern facility.



Celebrations are planned for the entire year with guest preachers and special music.



- The Celebration Begins - January 8
- Education Sunday - February 17
- Mission Sunday - May 14
- Confirmation Reunion - July 23
- Anniversary Service & Banquet – Sept. 17

There will be changing displays of historical artifacts in the narthex throughout the year, and portions of a video documenting the history of St. John and the Waterloo community will be shown monthly. A cookbook filled with recipes and memories of days gone by is also available at the church.