



*"To spread its Light from age to age,  
Shall be our chief endeavor." (CW 293)*

Our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary continues with a "Missions Celebration" on Sunday, May 14, 2017. Special services at 8:00 and 10:30 AM will acknowledge and thank God for these many years our congregation has had the privilege of spreading the Savior's Gospel in Waterloo and beyond.

It was on his Day of Ascension two-thousand years ago that our risen Lord Jesus commissioned his first disciples: "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15), giving eternal life to all who believe. After wending its way through hundreds of centuries and over several continents, the good news of God's forgiving love in his Son Jesus Christ arrived at our village after it was first settled in 1842, where God's Word and Spirit would create a German Lutheran congregation.



The word "mission" simply means, "a sending." Back in 1867 the ascended Christ sent Pastor Snell from Newville to organize our infant church, and members began reaching out with the good news of Christ to others. From then on, Christ has been sending pastors and teachers here, "to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Eph. 4:12). He sent us Pastors Denninger, Meyer, Bock, Pankow, Kuhlow, Thurow, Nitz, Essmann, Wilsmann, Schmeling, Runke and Adomeit, as we needed them.

More examples: Christ sent our first resident Pastor Martin Denninger also to nearby Krogville in 1875 to help gather Immanuel congregation in rural Deerfield. In 1897 Christ sent our Pastor Pankow to organize Lutherans at Hubbleton. After coming here in 1924, Pastor Thurow chaired the Wisconsin Synod's Mission Board during a period when missionaries were sent to Nigeria, Africa and to the Apache Mission in Arizona. Pastor Nitz (1937-1965) served on the synod's World Mission Board to survey outreach in Puerto Rico, where missionaries consequently were sent. Christ used Pastor Essmann (1965-1990) to help start the national Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS), which for the past 53 years has supported our global mission work with many prayers and contributions. Our congregation enabled Pastor Essmann to oversee the synod's missionaries who were sent to Latin America; also to initiate the WELS Multi-language Publications, which are spreading the Gospel promises of Christ to foreign lands in turmoil where missionaries cannot yet go. Congregation members have been involved in Friends of China.

We also celebrate ten sons of our congregation, whose parents encouraged them to become pastors. John Helmes graduated from our seminary in 1891, August Zich in 1893, Walter Pankow 1915, Frederick Nitz 1948, Paul Nitz 1952, Marcus Nitz 1957, James Bartz 1988, Kristin Taves 1989, Joel Schwartz 2008, and Jacob Schwartz 2012.

Guest preacher for the "Missions Celebration" on May 14 will be a son of the congregation, Rev. James Bartz from Eau Claire, Michigan, who previously served as a missionary in Africa. St John's LWMS ladies will provide a noon meal. There will be a program and displays by the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.