

Anniversary Celebration: 2020 Vision: It's Still About Jesus!

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH is almost 150 years old! The building is not quite that old, it was built in 1908. And baptisms began in our community as early as 1863. But the congregation was formed and named in 1870, and that is 150 years ago next year. So we have begun plans to celebrate. Here are some details, as the Board of Elders has been tasked with preparations.

Our theme for the anniversary is: 2020 Vision: It's still about Jesus. We have selected the text, Mark 10:46-52 as the guide for us in planning:

"They came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart. Get up; he is calling you." And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way."



We intend to have a guest preacher come by every two months for two years. That would be twelve individual celebrations, as we ask guests to proclaim God's Word to us, and to rejoice with us. The celebration begins on May 26, 2019 with Dr. Benjamin Mayes, associate professor at Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, and nephew of Rev. Jim and Becky Mayes of St. John.

We tentatively plan for 3 guest preachers this year, 6 next year, and 3 more in 2021, about every other month.

Our scheduled Anniversary Reunion Event is **September 6th, 2020**, during a Labor Day Weekend filled with activities, a banquet, and perhaps a carnival or musician to add to the festivities. Our Kansas District President, Rev. Peter K. Lange, will be our guest preacher. Plan for neighbors and friends to join us for a great day to remember God's goodness. Plan for us to continue our service to God as long as we are able. The name of Jesus is to be shared. The name of Jesus is still the name of our God and Savior!

SHARE YOUR OLD AND NEW St John photos for the 150th anniversary.

We are planning to assemble a number of pictorial perspective presentations (i.e., slide shows) of St John Lutheran Church as one of the projects to celebrate the 150th anniversary and to commemorate the history of the church, the congregation and the community. Therefore, we need photos that can be scanned and electronic images of more recent events. To reduce the chance of loss or damage to any photos that are being shared, the plan is to scan the photos and return them to the owners as soon as possible. Depending on the types and numbers of photos that are shared, we may make three to nine slide shows. Potential topics could be:

- ✦ The buildings, inside and out, and the grounds including the cemetery
- ✦ The Seasons – Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, or others
- ✦ Church and family photos, which could include baptisms, confirmations, weddings, or funerals
- ✦ Ordinations, commissioning, installations and farewells
- ✦ Boards, committees and choirs
- ✦ Special events at church and school (for example, the 50th, 75th, 100th anniversary of the congregation, school, or building, Preaching on the Prairie, missionary visits, etc.)
- ✦ Children's contributions – the school and/or the school at church, Sunday school and VBS
- ✦ Affiliated organizations (PTL, LLL, LWML, quilters, Couples Club, Walther League, Teens for Christ, etc.)
- ✦ Did we forget something?

To be successful, we need your photos, 2x2 slides or your recent electronic files. Photos, slides and electronic media can be submitted to the church office or given to Bruce or Kathy Schultz. Please place your photos or electronic media in an envelope that is securely closed and that has your name on the outside of the envelope. **With each picture, please include the following information (to the best of your ability). Date photo taken (Year, Month, Day); Event; Key object(s) or person(s) in the photo.** If the information is written on the back of the photo, there is no need to write it again. Please submit via USB, SD, CD or DVD, or send electronic files to bdschultzphd@gmail.com. High resolution files are preferred.

HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN WE REACH with the love of Christ in this anniversary year? (well, two years – when you get old, sometimes things slow down. ;-). Can each family at St. John invite three other families to join us at one of these events? 2349 souls have been baptized in the name of Christ through this congregation, and 1827 have made a confession of faith before our altar. When you consider the impact of St. John in our community, it is tremendous, and it is godly! We are still here to reach out to our neighbors, and to make disciples according to our Savior’s command. God needs His church to proclaim and live His truth!

How will you contribute to 2020 celebration? Do you have an idea for us (See the right-hand column for some ideas) that you can bring to fruition? Are you a storyteller? A Hymn-writer? A Poet? An Historian? An Artist? A Musician? A Writer? An Organizer? A Worker-bee?

CONTESTS! The anniversary committee challenges the congregation to be creative. (See three items below.) They will select winners based upon the Scripture text chosen for the anniversary, the theme, and how it represents God’s work among us for the past 150 years, or our intent to reach forward in continued service to Christ, our Savior. Submissions will remain the property of the authors, with St. John assuming rights to use those materials as they see fit through the anniversary celebrations.

LOGO: If you would like to create a logo, based upon our theme, please give a submission to the anniversary committee by May 1, 2019. The chosen logo will be used by the church during our anniversary period. The logo should be visual and reproducible. (Simple may be easier to copy and reproduce than something ornate.)

HYMN: If you would like to author a hymn or hymn tune, please give a submission to the anniversary committee by September 1, 2019. We will use the hymns that are crafted during our celebrations. New hymns and new tunes should be made for congregation singing of as a choir selection.

POETRY: If you would like to author a poem, essay, or historical narrative, please give a submission to the anniversary committee by May 1, 2020.

POSSIBLE IDEAS and SUGGESTIONS –

† WORSHIP:

- ✦ Guest preachers every two months
- ✦ Old Fashioned worship service
- ✦ Supper & Sing Gatherings hosted in homes
- ✦ Easter Vigil: cook out at church with an outdoor viewing of *The Passion of Christ*

† ACTIVITIES:

- ✦ Host a banquet at the church
- ✦ German Fest with Brats, Kraut, German Potato Salad
- ✦ Build a pavilion for church or youth activities
- ✦ Baby picture contest – Match baby picture to current picture
- ✦ Sharing member stories about their knowledge of St. John events
- ✦ Direct or perform in a play, or write one – like “The Church Pew”, or ___?
- ✦ Apron Contest
- ✦ Create a prayer garden
- ✦ Art Displays from members or community artists
- ✦ Concerts, performers, or carnival

† HISTORY of the Church:

- ✦ Church Timeline
- ✦ Old-Fashioned Worship service
- ✦ Fashion show
- ✦ Mustache and beard growing contest
- ✦ Photo albums/scrapbooks
- ✦ Displays on the history of St. John
- ✦ Write and publish a book on the history of St. John
- ✦ Display pictures of past pastors and teachers of St. John
- ✦ Church archive – display historical or significant artifacts
- ✦ Sunday School classes on the history of the LCMS
- ✦ Book-reads: Zion on the Mississippi, Seminary in Exile, Exodus of the 800
- ✦ Prepare Trivial Pursuit game of Bible and church history
- ✦ Enlist children to participate in Junior Lutherans

While the elders are working on many parts of the celebration, others are invited and encouraged to take on various planning and activity work.