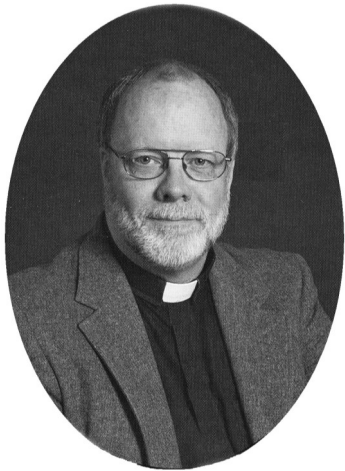


May the Lord bless you and keep you † May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you † May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you † And give you His peace †



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Wild Rose, Wisconsin
100th Anniversary 1912-2012



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

"You will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth." Jesus Christ Acts 1:8

In 2012 we mark the passing of 100 years since St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Wild Rose, Wisconsin was begun. It is a moment in time worthy of pause in our lives to stop and ponder the significance of this occasion.

The most significant thing about any task we undertake is the reason why we do it, and now is a perfect time to refresh our memories about that. 100 years ago a group of believers in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of the hu-

man soul from sin, and its effect of death and hell, gathered together in this community. Out of a love for God, His Son Jesus Christ, and their fellow human beings, they desired to establish a place where God could be worshiped and honored, and where His life giving Words could penetrate the hearts and minds of human souls with the truth about the way to everlasting life. They have all left this life now, and gone on to that eternal life which God proclaimed to them, and they in turn proclaimed into the world, just as Jesus said he wanted done in the Bible verse above. We are the heirs who have received, and who continue on, the work they began. As we do, we are once again reminded of the importance of this work, which we also desire to pass along to those who will be coming after us. There is no greater need any human being has than the forgiveness of their sin, which Jesus Christ has provided for all.

As we read through and remember all the things that have happened in our church over these last 100 years, this was, and is, and we pray will remain, the driving thought behind it all. All the baptisms, confirmations, weddings, funerals, Christian education, fellowship, worship services, whatever was done. It was and is all in service to God and our fellow human beings the salvation of souls, with complete faith in this verse from God's Word: *"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."* I Corinthians 15:58

Your brother and servant in Jesus Christ,

Pastor Dale W. Bahls

† † † † † † † † † † † † † †

On the cover: Artwork from the 1964 Ground Breaking Service bulletin with a picture of the church inserted.

100th Anniversary Celebration

St. Paul's will celebrate the 100th Anniversary on September 23, 2012. We will have the Worship Service at our regular time, 8:30 a.m. The celebration will begin with the church open at 1:00 p.m. to meet and greet old and new friends and view photos, historical items and records relating to the church. The celebration service will be at 2:00 p.m. with Pastor Bahls officiating and guest speaker Reverend John C. Wille, president of South Wisconsin District, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Special music will be played by church organist Carol Eckstein and guest organist Dale Sorenson of Chula Vista, CA. He will play selections from the recital given in 1952 for the newly purchased Rieger pipe organ. The altar flowers are donated in memory of Mary Klusmeyer Simich, confirmed in 1967. A reception will follow the service and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

The Biblical Quilt made and donated by Marion Purchatzke in honor of the 100th Anniversary will be displayed. Each individual block of the 20 block quilt was inspired by a biblical verse or hymn. A book of actual photos of each block and the words of inspiration will be given with the quilt. The quilt will be sold by silent auction. Marion has requested that the proceeds be used for printing this 100th Anniversary commemorative booklet. Sealed bids can be submitted up to and including the day of the celebration and will be opened during the reception.

Marion also previously donated a Green Bay Packer Quilt/Wall-hanging raffled at the 2011 Wild Rose Days Pie and Ice Cream Booth. Elaine Nestle donated a hand crocheted afghan in the design of the United States flag sold in a silent auction Sunday, July 3, 2011. The proceeds from both of these generous donations were applied to the expenses of the 100th Anniversary Celebration.

The anniversary banner made by Penny Pritzlaff using the theme "100 Years in the Shadow of the Cross" has adorned our sanctuary since June. The design of the banner resembles a stain glass window and is embellished with Christian symbols and images representing events in the church and the life of a Christian (see back cover).

† † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Many thanks to all the people who have worked to preserve the history of St. Paul's Lutheran Church so that it can be shared with future generations.

At a cost of about \$5,000 the building was dedicated in 1941
 Again much of the work by volunteers had to be done;
 A necessary addition of 30 X 60 was added in 1964
 Remodeling the building made it much nicer than before.

Originally, St. Paul's with two other churches was aligned
 Together with Wautoma and Deerfield worked just fine;
 In 1963, it was decided to join with Almond instead
 Then Pastor Ernest Schutz from the Bible to you read.

Through the years many pastors have served you well
 Hattstaedt, Rathjen, Stelter and Renner had a message to tell;
 Rose, Dubberke, Harms, Schutz and Jose were next in line
 Jaeger, Kohnke and your present Pastor Bahls did just fine!

The pipe organ was replaced with a Conn electric organ in '68
 The members agreed the sound of the new organ was great;
 In 1976, there was reason for a very special celebration
 When burning the mortgage proved the members' dedication.

The Ladies Aid was officially founded in the year of 1950
 With 18-20 charter members whose work was quite nifty!
 These faithful women decided there were many jobs to do
 By working together, their Christian fellowship really grew.

The Ladies Aid has worked hard, spending so much time
 Involved in so many projects trying hard not to get behind;
 Selling greeting cards and vanilla to make some extra cash
 When asked to make quilts, altar runners, etc. they said "yes".

A Fellowship Society for all members was formed in 1968,
 In 1987, the quilters sold Schaum Tortes which were great!
 The chili suppers and harvest dinners were held in the fall
 Now, the chili supper continues to be enjoyed by all.

Today we think of so many members who are no longer here
 In heaven, we will gladly join them with good cheer;
 Through the years God has blessed St. Paul's in many a way
 The parishioners are so very thankful – what more can I say?

Pastors Who Have Served the St. Paul's Congregation

Otto Hattstaedt	1912-1915	Vacancy	1966-1967
Henry Rathjen	1915-1925	Roderick D. Jose	1967-1993
Bernard J.E. Stelter	1925-1930	Mark Jaeger	1993-1997
Otto G. Renner	1930-1949	Vacancy	1997-1998
Martin Rose	1949-1956	Kevin Kohnke	1999-1999
Edwin H. Dubberke	1956-1960	Vacancy	1999-2001
Raymond L. Harms	1961-1963	Dale W. Bahls	2001-
Ernest A. Schutz	1963-1966		

History of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

As Christians, during the past century we have been constantly challenged by a changing world. We have also been strengthened and blessed by the Holy Spirit, who has kept us steadfast in God's Word. The following pages are a brief history of our congregation. May it encourage future generations to remain faithful to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, whose faithfulness to us is changeless.

St Paul's Lutheran Church had its beginning in 1907 when a small group of German Lutherans in the Wild Rose area gathered in homes for worship. During these pre-organized years, they were first served for a short time by Pastor A. E. Schneider followed in 1908 by Pastor Hermann Kaufmann and in 1910 by Pastor Otto Hattstaedt. All three of these pastors were also serving Trinity, Wautoma and Grace, Deerfield. The income for the first five years was \$122.10 with expenses \$126.50 creating a debt of \$4.40.

Then on December 22, 1912, Albert Melcher, Theodore Keppler, Charles Eserhut, Albert Eserhut, Edward Handrich and August Radloff along with Pastor Otto Hattstaedt established a congregation. The Constitution written in German was signed January 19, 1913 by Albert Melcher, Theodore Keppler, Charles Eserhut, Edward Handrich, August Radloff, Otto Hoffman, August Zick and Dr. A. Warzinske. These men pledged \$42.00 to operate in the coming year. Pastor Otto Hattstaedt served until 1915, followed by Pastor Henry Rathjen who served from 1915-24 and Pastor Bernard J.E. Stelter from 1924-30. On January 15, 1928, the Constitution was signed by Leonard

Hanneman, Walter Engnath, Albert Eserhut and Emil Becker then on December 28, 1930 by Erwin Steinke and John Steinke.

Worship continued in homes until arrangements were made to hold services in the Baptist church. In July 1928, an offer from the Methodist congregation was accepted to use their church for an annual rent of \$50.00. From the beginning until around 1940 the pastor's twice-a-year salary consisted of offerings given for that purpose. A separate offering was given by members for the rent. In 1929, the collection for salary was \$106.50 and the rent collection was \$29.60. Collections in 1932 were \$56.00 for salary and \$20.00 for rent with outstanding pledges for 1931-32 salary totaling \$75.00. These figures suggest the effects of the Great Depression on the church. There were 51 baptized members and 36 communicant members recorded in the 1934 annual report. In 1937, there was still no set salary for the pastor, but it was decided to endeavor to collect as much as the other churches, minimum \$12.00 per member, as St. Paul's had not contributed toward the expenses of the parsonage.

Pastor Otto Renner served from 1930-49.

In 1930, it was reported that the Methodist Church was not available for evening services, probably important to the pastor who also served Trinity and Grace, so a committee was elected to find a suitable place for worship. When nothing favorable was found the use of the Methodist Church continued with the pastor deciding the time of services. It was resolved in September 1934 to discontinue use of the Methodist Church and join Trinity for worship. In December 1936, overdue rent from past years was paid to the Methodist Church and a new agreement drawn up with \$25.00 annual rent for regular services.

Although the income in 1940 was \$130.90 and the treasury balance \$1.35, the minutes of a February 1941 meeting report "After discussion of the question whether it would not be timely and in the best interest of our congregation to have our own house of worship, it was resolved that a committee be elected to study the question and solicit members in behalf of a building program". The elected committee was Carl Eggers, Charles Eserhut, Julius Klusinske and Arlin Handrich. This decision is testimony of the faith

100th Anniversary St. Paul's, Wild Rose

One hundred years is certainly a very long time,
How can I ever put my thoughts into rhyme?
Our Lord has truly blessed this church 'tis true
His blessings for 100 years have not been just a few.

At this time, a revised history was needed, you did agree
That is for all the people who wish to read it, you see;
One of your members wrote the original history for you
He spent much time to be sure what he wrote was true.

In 1907, a small group decided a church they did need
For five years they met in homes and planted the seed;
From those first services the number of worshipers grew
As quite a few families joined the group who were new.

On Dec. 12, 1912, seven men organized this congregation
From other LCMS Christians, there was much jubilation!
Pastor Hattstaedt and Melcher, Keppler, Radloff, Handrich,
And two Eserhut brothers, with cooperation from several others.

As they had no church building of their very own
They met in the Methodist Church and their homes
Myrtle Brownlow was the first baby baptized in 1907
Now deceased, she has joined her family in heaven.

In 1925, both English and German sermons were preached
Thus the pastors, with the Word, many people reached;
As the membership grew, they needed a church of their own
Funds were needed, so they decided to seek a loan.

Borrowing the money proved to be very difficult indeed
The South Wisconsin District refused the \$500 they did need;
However, a lady in Ohio agreed to meet their request for a loan
With interest at only 3% they were soon able to pay back the loan.

\$2500 was borrowed from WI. Church Mutual later that year
Being able to get the money was good news for all to hear
Dedicated members worked together, this loan to repay
Many prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord they did pray.

A New Year's Prayer

As we embrace another year
I pray for those I hold most dear
I pray for other folks I meet
In crowded stores or on the street.
I pray for soldiers far away,
Lord help them face each trying day.
I pray for those addicted still
To cigarettes against their will
And drugs or drink, whate'er it be
Please help them all, as you help me.
The lame, who bravely walk their way,
The blind, who cannot see the day,
The weak, who lean on canes, and others
In Christ, remember they're our brothers.

Encouragement

I've always written poetry
Since I was just a kid.
Lots of things I couldn't do
But that's the thing I did.

The teacher thought that I could sing
(My voice was higher then),
And so when Christmas rolled around
She made me sing again.

The lesson that I learned,
And still remember to this day
A little kind encouragement
Can go a long, long way.

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We thank Melva Zuege Kleist, St John Lutheran Church, Almond for writing the following poetic history for this blessed occasion. As well as being a sister in Christ, Melva has close ties to St. Paul's where her mother Lona, brother Ardin, his wife Evelyn and their children Cordell and Weston were very active members. We have recently welcomed Weston back into the congregation.

and determination of the congregation.

In March 1941, Albert Eserhut, Leonard Hanneman, Ernest Knoke, John Steinke and Carl Eggers were elected as the committee to solicit contributions for two building lots and to function as a building committee until the completion of the project. The amount raised by the committee was \$135.00. In April two 50' x 120' lots were purchased for \$120.00 and Julius Draeger of Oshkosh was chosen as the architect. In June a request for a loan from the South Wisconsin District Church Extension Fund was denied, but Pastor had succeeded in obtaining a loan from Miss Dora Nuetzel of Ohio for \$500.00 at 3% interest payable semi-annually and the capital at the end of five years. In October a \$2,500.00, 20 year loan at 4% interest was borrowed from Wisconsin Church Mutual of Merrill.

In June, pledges of cash and labor contributions were requested from members. When the church was completed an account of donated labor shows 14 members for a total of 733.5 hours figured at \$.30-.40 per hour, 11.5 horse hours at \$.60 per hour and 28 truck hours at \$.40 per hour for a dollar value of \$281.38. One hundred eleven of the hours were donated by Pastor Renner. In addition, E.L. Knoke donated \$162.50 paying for the labor provided by others, probably employees at his lumber company. Albert Eserhut donated labor valued at \$100.00. The cash donations received from members and friends were \$527.55.

Ground breaking was in August and laying the cornerstone given by Erwin Peterson of Haertel Monument Company was in November. Art Blader was the carpenter in charge of construction. The cost of the building and furnishings was about \$5,000.00. The length of the church was 58' and the sanctuary was 24' wide. The steeple topped by a metal cross was 38' above ground level. The annex was 12' x 16' and provided room for a rear entrance to the sanctuary, basement and a vestry. The kitchen was 10' x 16' on the south end of the basement. The flooring was white, red and black oak. The Robbins Lumber Company in Rhinelander was used for millwork on the flooring. All the window and door trim, the three-foot wainscoting, the curved ceiling beams and all the chancel furniture were of native butternut in natural finish. The chancel furniture purchased from Blahnik Mfg. Co. in



The 1941 dedicated Church and sanctuary

Antigo included: altar, pulpit, baptismal font and hymn board at a cost of \$230.00. The walls were of duo-tone gray planking. The ceiling was of paneled wallboard in ivory. The 20 pews were black ash in natural finish and were also purchased from Blahnik's at \$300.00. The seating capacity of the pews was 120. The outer doors are of solid white pine planks and still grace the front entrance of the church. It is noteworthy to mention that most of the wood used in the building of the church including the oak flooring and the ten-inch white pine plank siding grew in Waushara County soil.

The following items are listed as donations to the new church: 2 sets of door plates, 2 candle sticks, 1 wooden cross, 2 wooden offering plates, vestry table, phonograph, loud speaker and recording set, kneeling bench, 5 hymnals and an aisle runner by the Ladies Aid. A parlor organ was loaned to the church by Frances Lane for an indefinite period and Rose Hanneman who up until this time had played a piano was now the organist.

"St. Paul's Lutheran was built so more might hear the saving gospel often.

September 27, 1959 Children's Hymnals bought for the Sunday School.

May 5, 1961 Offerings at Thanksgiving, Christmas and "self-denial" envelopes to go to synod which has a debt problem.

1964 Reverend Feiss, a retired pastor from Wautoma, who made four sanctuary lights for the '41 church made two matching lights for the '64 addition.

April 12, 1967 Lawn to be mowed by congregation with scheduled turns.

January 19, 1978 Hymn "How Great Thou Art" glued by members into 1941 Lutheran Hymnals to be removed. (It was printed in the 1982 Lutheran Worship hymnals.)

July 13, 1982 Questionnaire sent to members about having a common cup and on January 24, 1983, the vote by ballot was majority in favor of no change to individual communion cups.

July 22, 1986 Fellowship put ribbon markers in hymnals.

April 27, 1989 Resolved to use plastic cups for communion.

January 21, 1992 Office and kitchen phones installed and in 1995 an answering machine was added.

July 20, 1992 Permission for Betty Mattice and Marvel Kleidon to decorate mother's room with Noah's Ark wall-hanging and to hang curtains.

January 25, 1993 Newsletters and bulletins were the pastor's responsibility until this time when a church secretary was hired.

June 21, 1993 Per Pastor Jaeger's suggestion, it was voted to have communion 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays.

November 2, 1998 Nativity set purchased for \$384.92.

December 14, 2005 Approved women as ushers.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † †

These three poems by Esther Mattice were selected from the many she wrote and shared with our congregation through her years as a dedicated member of St. Paul's. Esther could be counted on for an appropriate poem for any occasion within the church.

Your Gift

What gift do you have that is quite unique?
Which the Lord gave you to use,
It may be a talent, or your work,
To use it you can't refuse!

And as you give of your special gift
Imperfect 'tho it may be
Remember His words of encouragement:
"You are doing it unto Me."

Church Improvements

- 1946** Church painted white, only primed up until this time.
- 1954** Cupboards built in kitchen with Ladies Aid's approval.
- 1956** Basement floor painted and steps varnished.
- 1958** New ceiling installed in the church.
- 1961** Combination storm windows donated.
- 1963** Carpet for chancel donated.
- 1965** Blackboards put up for the Sunday School.
- 1969** Fellowship Hall ceiling installed.
- 1970** Entrance to the church carpeted.
- 1979** Fellowship Hall paneled.
- 1981** Parking lot behind church graveled.
- 1981** New PA system installed.
- 1982** Steel beams in Fellowship Hall enclosed. Plan for island and double sink in the kitchen met with enthusiasm.
- 1984** Parking lot blacktopped.
- 1985** Cushions for pews purchased.
- 1992** New lighted sign placed near front entrance.
- 1993** 2 adjustable height tables and 12 chairs for Sunday School purchased.
- 1995/96** Narthex furniture purchased.
- 1997** Both entrances, nursery, office, church aisle and chancel carpeted in textured crimson.
- 1998** South and north sides of the church landscaped with plans from Jung's.
- 1998** Carpet glued down in the Fellowship Hall.
- 2001** South entrance door replaced with commercial door.
- 2007** Upholstered metal stacking chairs for the Fellowship Hall.

Did You Know?

- May 13, 1923** Resolved to try the envelope system to collect for pastor's fee.
- May 11, 1947** Started taking count of attendance by ushers.
- January 4, 1949** Portals of Prayer ordered to be mailed to members.
- July 19, 1953** Paid Leonard Hanneman \$10 for use of his pump to water shrubbery. No water at church.
- October 16, 1955** \$50.00 plus free will offering for William Luhm whose barn burned.

With this slogan in their hearts", reported the Waushara Argus, the church was dedicated on December 28, 1941 with altogether over 400 attending the three dedication services.

During the busy year of building the church Pastor Renner translated the Constitution from German into the English language. In the minutes of the August 27th meeting it was documented "The English translation of our Constitution offered by Pastor was discussed paragraph by paragraph and adopted in the form recorded in the record book." The records for the first ten years were German and are not translated. The services had been in German until 1925 when English and German were alternated and it is unknown when the German services were discontinued.

In 1942, there were 33 contributing members and an income of \$389.47. In July of the same year, it was noted that Pastor Renner selected Sunday School teachers and set up classes. The office of Sunday School Superintendent was created in January 1943 and was filled on recommendation of the pastor.

November 17, 1943 minutes: Authorization to purchase Christian flag and United States flag for chancel.

December 31, 1944 minutes: "Resolved that the ladies of the congregation be welcomed at the business meetings." But they could not vote. The balance of the note held by Dora Nuetzel was to be paid in 1945.

July 11, 1948 minutes: The congregation accepted an offer of a statue of Christ for the altar given by Mr. & Mrs. William Piske of Merrill in memory of his sister and her sister-in-law, Mrs. Elizabeth Bartsch, wife of Edward Bartsch. The statue was on the altar until the new addition in 1964 and since has been in the narthex.



Altar statue of Christ

Pastor Renner gave his farewell sermon on May 8, 1949. He moved on to a smaller parish in Horicon.

Pastor Martin Rose served from 1949-56.

An organ fund had been established in 1946. During a meeting pertaining to the organ on October 4, 1950 it was noted "the women were given the same consideration as men" and it was decided to purchase the Rieger Pipe Organ. The organ would be built in Austria for \$2800.00 without pedals. In December the order was changed and the Knoke family paid to have pedals included. It was an unusual instrument, offering a quality of music that was quite rare in this country. There were only seven other similar organs in use in this country at that time. The organ was dedicated in a worship service

on July 6, 1952 with Viola Bonsa of Wausau as guest organist. Then on August 10, 1952 the public was invited to two recitals of sacred music played by Professor Paul Bunjes, teacher of organ music at Concordia College, River Forest, IL.



Rose Hanneman at the Rieger Organ

It was noted in 1953 that the janitor's salary was raised to \$30.00 and the organist to \$50.00. Leonard Hanneman had requested to serve as sexton in January 1942 and served through 1967. Rose had been the accompanist since before the church was built and in 1939 she received \$.35 per service for playing the piano. Although both had received "tokens of appreciation" through the years, Leonard did not receive a set amount for his services until about 1950.

Pastor Edwin H. Dubberke served from 1956-60.

During a meeting on September 11, 1956 a committee was appointed to

The Fellowship Society also plans and arranges special celebrations within the congregation.

Quilters

The Quilters have been active for many years with no record of their definite beginning. Since the Ladies Aid disbanded in the 70's and in 1976 there was a "Ladies Group", one might assume it was a transition. A partial list of their "good works" includes: Quilts given to the Orphan Grain Train and World Relief, to local families in need and given for use in benefit raffles for times of disaster. Health Kits have also been put together and sent with Orphan Grain Train. Many quilts are sold and the proceeds given to charities: Bethesda Lutheran Home, Bible Translators, Camp LuWiSoMo to name a few and also used for improvements or needs within the church. In 2011 the Quilters presented the gift of new paraments to the church for the Advent season. From 1991 through 2009 their "Strawberry Schaum Torte" (luncheon) was a successful fundraiser and a much anticipated event in the community and beyond.

Card Recyclers

For many years, the Card Recyclers have been a small group of women who accomplish a lot, serve the Lord and their fellowman by turning used greeting cards into new attractive and reasonably priced cards for all occasions. Their profits have been given to charities and used for improvements or needs within the church, one of those needs being oil for the altar candles.

Social Ministry

This organization encourages the congregation to share our blessings and organizes disbursements of those offerings. Help is given at times of local and national disasters. Food and gift certificates are given to several families during the holidays. Gym shoes are bought for elementary children to assist families in need to meet school requirements. Free will offerings are taken for charitable organizations such as Bethesda Lutheran Home, the Lutheran Hour and Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP).

Church Council 2012

President:	Everett Eckstein	Secretary:	Carol Eckstein
Vice-President:	Tom Pritzlaff	Treasurer:	Tori Bowen
Elders:	Dan Pitcher	Financial	
	Bob Ross	Secretary:	Randy Larson
	Ted Steinke	Social Ministry:	Louise Staalnd
Trustees:	Larry Caves	Sunday School	
	David Peterson	Superintendent:	Doris Klusmeyer

In the 1950's there were 18-20 very active members. Meetings opened with prayer, singing hymns and devotions were led by the pastor. They obtained furnishings for the kitchen and church in general. They sewed curtains to divide the basement into classrooms, assisted with Sunday School material, Vacation Bible School materials and snacks and also made up the treat bags for Sunday School at Christmas.

In 1954 they joined the Women's Missionary League. They had a Sunshine Club to cheer those who were ill and gave gifts for new babies of members. In 1959 a Flower Fund was started for altar flowers, which after the service were given to the sick. A subscription of "This Day" magazine was sent to the library and hospital for many years, and tray favors were made for hospital patients.

In 1960 material was bought and altar linens were made.

Unfortunately, by the early 70's attendance had dropped to about 6 per meeting, and in June 1979 discussion was held on what to do with the \$94.62 from the disbanded Ladies Aid.

St. Paul's Fellowship Society

The Fellowship Society was formed in November 1968. It meets the second Sunday of the month at 5:00 p.m. with a potluck meal and fellowship, a business meeting and occasionally a special program. Membership is open to anyone in the congregation who wishes to participate.

Fundraisers are planned within this organization. The Chili Suppers have been held since 1971 in November, and the Harvest Dinners were held each October from 1986 through 2008. The Pie and Ice Cream Booth has been a part of Wild Rose Days for the past 6 years serving homemade pies donated by the congregation.

Proceeds from fundraisers are used for charities, missions, and improvements to the church building. The following is a partial list of projects to which it has contributed: 1982 – remodeling the kitchen, 1983 – new kitchen stove, 1984 – paving the parking lot, 1985 – the pew cushions, 1995/96 – narthex furniture, 1998 – office computer, T.V., stand and VCR and 2003 to 2006 – replacing the sanctuary, narthex, office and basement windows and two exterior doors on the west side of the church.

For many years baskets of cookies were delivered for Christmas to Wild Rose Manor, Rosemore and homes. It is noteworthy that 125 baskets were delivered for Christmas 2001.

investigate purchasing the two lots behind the church. This was accomplished, and St Paul's owned an area 100' wide between Park and Euclid Avenues. By 1959, the church was in the process of buying the two lots along Main Street completing the present church property of six lots.

In 1956: The original wooden front steps were replaced with cement steps and a lectern from Blahnik's was ordered to match the altar and pulpit. The Ladies Aid ordered material to be paid for by the church and made curtains to divide the basement into classrooms.

In 1958: Mortgage to be paid in full when it becomes due. Plans were made to install a new ceiling in the church. A gift of a communion set with individual cups was offered, until this time a common cup was used and letters were sent to each family for preference. The vote in November was 20 to 3 in favor of individual cups and the set was accepted from the Kanes. After discussion of Christmas decorations in front of the church it was decided to start with a nativity scene put up by Leonard Erickson, Marvin Sorenson and Ardin Zuege. After years of use and then being in storage the nativity scene was repainted and used as a prop for the 2003 Sunday School Christmas program.

In 1959: Hymnal racks were made for the pews and a decision was made to install a new "oil fired furnace with manual controls." The "old" building on property between the church and Main Street was sold and was removed. Pastor Dubberke wrote in the May 1960 newsletter "The Wild Rose church looks different. The church has not changed but its surroundings have. The old building that stood between the church and the highway has now been removed." There was discussion on merging with Immanuel, Mt Morris. The vote at the meeting was 2 yes, 7 no and 9 undecided.

January 17, 1960 minutes: Building debt to be paid off in February.

In 1960: Fabric was purchased for paraments in four colors and sewn by the Ladies Aid. To install water in the church, Mr. Kemf was hired to drill a new well. Ray Jenks & Sons installed a pump, put a humidifier on the furnace and ran water to the kitchen sink. It was also noted that the old dry well would be taken care of.

Pastor Raymond L. Harms served from 1961-1963.

Due to the additional responsibilities brought on by an increased membership, the tri-parish applied for a vicar. Vicar Roger Ruff served 1963-64. Although temporarily assisted by a vicar, with the increased workload Pastor Harms did not wish to continue the arrangement with St Paul's. Therefore, discussion was started in the spring of 1963 and by fall St Paul's had merged with St John, Almond. This change meant a move from the South Wisconsin District, Missouri Synod to the North Wisconsin District.

Pastor Ernest A. Schutz accepted the call to the new dual parish and was installed in November 1963. He served until 1966.

Also in October of 1963, committees were formed for building an addition on the church. Fact Finding Committee: Ardin Zuege, Albert Sommer and Richard Wacholtz. Financial Committee: E.L. Knoke, Glen Mattice, Leonard Erickson, James Jenks and William Sommer. Building Committee: those on the Fact Finding Committee plus Dan Pitcher and Orville Lehr. Although there was no money in the building fund at a special meeting in December 1963, acting on faith, a plan drawn by Ardin Zuege was accepted and Oliver Anderson chosen to do the building. Ground Breaking Services were conducted on April 19th and construction began immediately. George Edgren was hired to put in the basement; however, it was noted that help from the congregation was requested for the first two weeks. Minutes of an April 1964 meeting report 1 year pledges totaled \$1,420.00, 3 year pledges \$5,042.00 and a promise of a \$5,000.00 loan within the congregation. In July, arrangements were made to borrow up to \$15,000.00 from the Union State Bank at 5% payable \$1,000 per year or more.

The cornerstone donated by Erwin Peterson, as was the first cornerstone, was set on August 9th with a special service and was put in place by the members of the Building Committee. The cornerstone contents are: list of all members of the congregation, names of the officers of the congregation, members of the Building Committee, members of the Finance Committee, copy of the Church Constitution, copy of the Ground Breaking Service, copy of the Cornerstone Laying Service, some recent Sunday bulletins, copy of the Waushara Argus, picture of ground breaking, picture of the construc-

Membership

1934	51 Baptized	36 Communicant
1966	158	112
1979	157	127
1999	127	110
2012	110	84

Education and Organizations

Sunday School

Little is known of the Sunday School before the church was built although a 1938 report stated it had a deficit of \$3.18 and an income of \$1.08 was reported in 1940. In July 1942 Pastor Renner set up classes and chose teachers. Enrollment from the 50's through the 70's was 30 to 40 students. In 1999 there were 23 students; in 2002 the number of students was 15. In 2001, the Sunday School chose as mission work, through Compassion International, the sponsorship of 3 year old Maria I. Placencia of the Dominican Republic. Interesting letters were exchanged and monetary gifts sent for special occasions. She voluntarily dropped from the program at age 14. Ups and downs and reorganizations took place throughout the years but the Sunday School has continued to plant seeds of faith in the children.

Youth Group

Youth Groups have been active but sporadic. The groups have combined devotions, good works, fundraisers and fun.

The Walther League under the direction of Pastor Schutz from May 1964 to November 1967 had as many as 12 members.

Everett and Carol Eckstein directed a very active youth group from approximate 1973 through 1977.

A group was formed by Michele Nault and Everett Eckstein in 1999. In 2002 Michele resigned and Jerry and Susan Stecker became the directors assisted by Pastor Bahls. The group chose the name "The Lutheran Kids for Christ". In 2005 and 2006 Pastor Bahls directed the group assisted by Cindy Tucker.

Ladies Aid/LWML

Although the first records of Ladies Aid available are September 28, 1950, several of St. Paul's members had belonged to a Ladies Aid of the Mt. Morris church, the "Northern Circle" established in 1934. The aisle runner for the church in 1942 was given by the Ladies Aid.

pense. February 2009 Darrel's plans were approved and now beautifying the village along Main Street in the church lawn are two 65' beds of roses cared for by Darrel.

It is noteworthy to mention that after a Worship Service in 2009 a special thank you was given to Loren Purchatzke for his many years of service in the church. His devotion to the Lord and His church are evident through the many useful and beautiful gifts showing his woodworking skill: two candelabras, the processional cross, Advent wreath stand and the baptismal candle stand with the dove carved and painted by Everett and Carol Eckstein. There are many other contributions and services too numerous to list including his years of service holding offices on our Church Council.

In 2010 the church received money from the Louis Klusinski estate and the decision was made to place it in a separate fund to be used for the Adopt a Seminary Student program. At this time the church is contributing to David Mommens assigned by Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. David grew up in Portage, Wisconsin.

To God be the Glory!

Statistics

The record book shows 10 baptisms before the church was established. The first in 1907 was Myrtle Eserhut (Protheroe, Brownlow) who was a member most of her life. The first after the church was established was Delmar Handrich on June 29, 1913. There have been 242 baptized into the Lord's family.

St. Paul's has been blessed to have 238 confirmed in faith.

The weddings recorded are 103. The first was Edgar Westphal and Lillian Eserhut on June 18, 1930 and the first after the church was built was William Sommer and Anona Jones on May 9, 1942.

Funerals were held for 142 departed souls. The first funerals were Delmar Handrich on April 19, 1916 and his sister, Leona Handrich on April 23, 1916. It is noted these children were taken by diphtheria.

Two members of St. Paul's are descendants of men of the early church. Ted Steinke's grandfather, Theodore Steinke "re-elected elder and treasurer" in 1924. Don Apps' maternal grandfather, William Witt "re-elected deacon" in 1928.

tion and names of government officials in 1964, President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson; Governor of Wisconsin, John Reynolds; Village President, Leo Sarnowski.

The basement was finished first and when completed services were held in the basement until the upstairs was finished. The 30' x 60' addition consisted of a new sanctuary to seat 150 and the basement a general meeting room and additional Sunday School rooms. The original church was converted into an enlarged narthex, office and mother's room and the basement a more spacious kitchen, two restrooms and storage. The remodeled entry to the church enclosed both the basement entrance and the steps bringing the original doors to ground level and retaining the original basement door. A 12' x 7' cross was mounted on the west end of the new addition. The chancel furniture is from the original church. The entire building project was completed at a cost of \$21,500.00, plus it was estimated that \$1,700.00 worth of labor was donated.

On October 18, 1964, a grateful congregation dedicated the new addition to the church to the glory of God and the preaching of His Word with special services at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Guest speakers for the services were for



1964 altar



Murals in the Fellowship Hall



During the Wild Rose Public Library fundraiser to remodel the library and add a community center, the generous donations by individuals and organizations made it possible in 2005 for our church to be acknowledged at the library with an 8" x16" brick displaying the church name and *Psalm 119:105: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."*

Changes to make it possible to go to the communion rail without using steps had been discussed for many years within the congregation. It was first mentioned in 2002 minutes; however, plans were not presented until February 2006. Plans presented by Cal Jenks and Dan Jenks were accepted. The project lengthened the kneeler and communion rail and moved it to floor level. Stone was chosen to redecorate the chancel walls where the railing had been removed. Cal and Dan did all the work being assisted only with the stone.



2006 altar

At a December 10, 2008 meeting, Don Apps reported that at one time the Village of Wild Rose was known as the "Village of Roses", but the roses never lived very long due to our hard winters. His brother, Darrel Apps, a horticulturist wanted to plant a bed of hardy roses on the church lawn at his ex-

wiring by Pastor Jaeger and Cal Jenks. The new addition and elevator were completed in the spring of 1997 at a final cost of approximately \$49,000., and dedicated in a special church service on June 15, 1997 followed by a potluck luncheon.

The elevator made it possible for the church to be used by The Commission on Aging Mealsite in Wild Rose from 1997 until 2005 when they moved to the new Community Center at the Wild Rose Public Library.

In the fall of 1997, St. Paul's and St. John became a vacancy parish. Pastor Harold Keekley served as vacancy pastor until Pastor Kevin Kohnke was installed in January 1999. He served until August 1999. At that time, St. Paul's separated from St. John and returned to the South Wisconsin District. Again we were a vacancy parish and during this time we were blessed to be served by retired pastors from the area including Pastor Arthur Senn, Pastor William Meier and Pastor Ronald Schultz.

In April 1999, the Conn electric organ was replaced with the present Rogers digital organ and piano. Carol Eckstein has been head organist since 1967 continuing these responsibilities through two intervals when a temporary organist was needed, and an occasional substitute. Robert Braband was with us in the early 80's and Ruth Meyer from 1997 until 2008.

A dedication service in September 2000 was for the new organ, a new sound system and wooden candelabras made and donated to the church by Loren Purchatzke.

On February 18, 2001, St. Paul's became a dual parish with Grace, Deerfield, completing the circle back to our beginnings.

Our present Pastor Dale W. Bahls was installed on August 26, 2001.

Acolytes started serving December 2002 after candle lighters and vestments were donated.

During a meeting in May 2003, Ruth Meyer presented the design for an altar frontal piece she offered to crochet. This was approved in June 2003 and in July 2004 the beautiful addition to our altar was in place and Ruth was thanked for her time and talent.

mer pastors, the Rev. O.G. Renner, Rev. Raymond Harms and Rev. Edwin Dubberke. Liturgists for the services were the Rev. E.A. Schutz, present pastor of the congregation and the Rev. George Pape, a member of the congregation. Among the guests were Mrs. Louise (Charles) Eserhut and Mrs. Alvina (Albert) Eserhut who were the only living charter members of the congregation.

When Pastor Schutz accepted a call in October 1966, Circuit Counselor Pastor L.F. Schneider from St. Luke's, Wisconsin Rapids announced at an October 31st meeting "he felt between Wisconsin Rapids and Stevens Point vicars together with area pastors something would be worked out". We were served by Pastor Schneider and Vicar John F. Domsch, also from St. Luke's and other area pastors. The vacancy continued until Pastor Roderick D. Jose was installed on September 3, 1967. He served until 1993.

In April 1966, the pipe organ was tuned and it was discovered to be cracked and warped. Then in July 1967, the organ was deemed un-repairable and a fund was established for a new organ. Therefore, a special meeting was held to vote if a new organ should be purchased. The women were present for discussion but could not vote. The motion did not carry, 10 yes and 11 no, but by the spring of 1968 the decision was made to purchase a new organ. The Rieger Pipe Organ is now in California owned and restored by Dale Sorenson, grandson of Rose Hanneman long time accompanist. The pipe organ was replaced in 1968 with a Conn electric organ. At that time Carol Eckstein was our organist and was asked to continue for the coming year.

A memorial gift of \$200.00 from the Protheroe family was accepted in the fall of 1969 for a pastor's chair to be placed in the chancel.

At one time announcing for communion required meeting with the pastor during a set time on Saturday. Later it became possible to announce before the 8:30 a.m. worship service and then in 1973 communion cards replaced announcing to the pastor.

The Constitution was updated and a special meeting was held on October 26, 1975 to vote on changes. An Important change gave women the privilege to vote and hold offices other than president, vice-president and elders.

The minutes from a meeting on April 13, 1976 state a sign was to be made by Lester Peters with brick columns and redwood lumber. He was assisted by Cal Jenks. This is the sign between the church and Main Street.

A special mortgage burning service was held Sunday, October 24, 1976 with Rev. H.E. Simon, president of the North Wisconsin District, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod assisting Rev. R.D. Jose. The mortgage was for the 1964 addition.

In January 1978, there was discussion on buying the house next door, the "Hanneman" house east of the church. The trustees were to explore the feasibility of this action. In May they reported and advised against it.

At a meeting October 25, 1978 the church council approved the painting of a mural in the Fellowship Hall. Cal Jenks prepped the wall and Carol Eckstein with several youth from the church finished the mural by the following Easter. The youth were Laurie and Pam Staaland, Barbara Jenks and Kelly Jenks (see pictures page 10).

The Memorial Candle to the left of the altar on the chancel wall was given in 1979 as a memorial for Reverend and Mrs. Pape. The candle was later electrified for ease in handling.

The Lutheran Hymnal copyright 1941 was replaced with 150 Lutheran Worship copyright 1982 ordered in late 1981. The old hymnals were sold to St. John, Almond.

Cal Jenks had made a stainless steel cross to replace the original metal cross that was in poor condition. It was noted in the minutes of the April 20, 1988 meeting that lights to outline the cross were in place. They were a memorial to Clayton Owens.

Chimes and recorder had been installed in the steeple in the 40's and in 1989 were replaced by a bell.

In 1990, the wood siding was removed and the church was resided with white vinyl. The decision was made to accent the cross on the west end with diagonal brown siding behind it and spotlights were installed. Cal Jenks wrapped the wooden cross with stainless steel.

January 10, 1991 minutes: The stained glass window showing symbols of the Trinity was installed as a memorial for Ray Tiarks.

June 22, 1992 minutes: The sanctuary will be partitioned from the narthex with half walls and etched glass. Arden Zuege to draw up floor plans. Approval was given for Carol Eckstein to make 12 banners to cover metal girders in the sanctuary.

Pastor Mark Jaeger served from 1993-1997.

Discussion began at a meeting April 16, 1991 because of a concern over a lack of handicap accessibility in the church. Then in January 1992, Ardin Zuege proposed a ramp and presented drawings.



1997 elevator addition

It was noted that the ramp would have to be approved by the Industrial Commission. It was also reported that an elevator would cost approximately \$20,000.00. A chair lift was discussed but two lifts would be needed due to the three levels of the church. The elevator discussion continued in February 1993 with it being reported that churches were exempt from handicap accessibility unless remodeling. There was no more discussion until April 1995 when Ardin Zuege suggested a fund for an elevator and car port. There was a motion carried to develop plans. Ardin and Evelyn Zuege presented a check for \$25,000.00 to start the fund. In May 1995, a committee was chosen to extensively research the elevator project: Pastor Jaeger, Ardin Zuege, Pat Nault, Dan Jenks, Dan Rieck and Loren Purchatzke. In July, the committee reported, agreed to sign papers and issue a down payment. Pat Nault presented plans and drawings of the new addition and elevator in November. Ardin Zuege presented another check for \$25,000.00. for the project in July 1996. The contractor for construction was Jones Building. The labor to install heating was donated by Dan Jenks and labor for electrical