

Jim Schoeneck  
1988

# ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Enterprise Wisconsin

# 1897-1988

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Library

11881 N. Seminary Drive, 65W

Mequon, Wisconsin

The year was 1897. The gay 90s were swinging to a close as was the entire 19th century. America changed leadership as newly elected president William McKinley was inaugurated into office. Queen Victoria celebrated her Diamond Jubilee with pomp and circumstance. The world of communication leaped into the future when Guglielmo Marconi opened the "Wireless Telegraph Company". 1897 also marked the birth of such literary favorites as Rudyard Kipling's "Captains Courageous" and Rostand's "Cyrano de Bergerac". And, of course, the pens of Rudolph Dirks brought to life those mischievous German Lausbuben known as the "Katzenjammer Kids".

The United States of America was enjoying times of prosperity and fame as countless numbers of inventors and industrial magnates, politicians and frontiersmen made her "the land of opportunity". Immigrants from virtually every part of the globe poured into this country to begin a new life for themselves. The more the people came across the Atlantic, the more homes, schools, churches and towns had to be built. Wood became a precious commodity. Even as "Gold!" was being shouted in the far away Klondyke, so also "Timber!" was being shouted in the forests of America.

One of the booming areas during these productive years was the heavily forested state of Wisconsin. Strong and burly men from far and wide flooded the state in order to harvest the magnificent virgin timbers of the northwoods. Logging camps began to spring up all over and were soon

overflowing with these ambitious and hardworking "lumberjacks". These men were naturally in need of supplies, medical aid and, of course, entertainment. As a result, towns and townships began to appear almost overnight around these camps.

One example of such a settlement can be found in southeastern Oneida County in the township of Enterprise. At one time, only the Chippewa and Potawatomi Indians resided in this area, but in 1884 the first white settlers began to homestead here. One year later the railroad began to lay its tracks and soon "Camp Four" (as it was called then) was open for business. Camp Four became one of the numerous sidings for loading freight cars along the line and thus became known as "Robert's Siding" and sometimes even "Schoolhouse Siding". Finally, on March 29, 1905, the Township of Enterprise was created by legislative act.

As was the case with most Wisconsin communities, the first settlers to arrive were of German descent. Wherever Germans would gather to settle, they were almost certain to build one thing - a Lutheran church. Enterprise was no exception.

The earliest records of the Word being formally brought to this area date back to 1887. At this time, the largest town in the northwoods was the city of Rhinelander (pop 1,500) located about fifteen miles northwest of Camp Four. Because of its size, Rhinelander also became the hub of all missionary activity for the entire region. The first

historical evidence of Lutheran activity in Rhinelander is recorded in the fall of 1885. The Wisconsin Synod (at that time known as the Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Wisconsin and other states) commissioned Reverend John Ph. Koehler to visit this section of the lumber industry. Finding that some Lutheran families had settled here, Pastor Koehler began to gather them for worship and formed what is today Zion Lutheran Church. Upon Koehler's return to Milwaukee, the Reverend E. Mayerhoff (chairman of the Synod Board for upper Wisconsin) would either come to Rhinelander himself, or he would delegate other pastors and students to administer to the needs of Zion.

The man which he put in charge of surveying mission needs in the area was Pastor Adolph Hoyer of Princeton, Wisconsin. On June 11, 1887, Pastor Hoyer formed what was known as the Lake Shore Mission field (so-called because it was reached by means of the Lake Shore Railroad). This vast field quickly spread to serve 21 stations at one time and more than 40 in all. One of these stations was "Pelican" named after the large Pelican Lake which forms the eastern border of Enterprise.

Pastor Hoyer's stay was brief, however, and on March 21, 1888, Zion in Rhinelander received her first pastor - Reverend W. Kistemann. Pastor Kistemann had been a traveling preacher in the area, and was still responsible for nine of the stations in the mission field, including Pelican. In his annals he makes the remark that it took him

three weeks to make just one round of visits! In November of 1888, Pastor Kistemann accepted a call to Florence, Wisconsin.

From January 22 until April 1 of 1889, Rhinelander was served by Pastor C.F. Rutzen. Since Eagle River was more centrally located and was on the main line of a railroad, Pastor Rutzen relocated there. He alternated Sundays between Eagle River and Rhinelander and served the remainder of the field on weekday evenings. He writes, "Conditions were very primitive at that time. The work was hard and not very inspiring, as there seemed little hope for growth. After about a year I was transferred to another field." (Zion Dedication Booklet, 1929)

Thanks to God's grace, however, the Synod did not give up hope. In the fall of 1889, Reverend J. Dejung, Sr. came north and made Rhinelander his headquarters. At this time fourteen other stations belonged to his parish which stretched from Elcho in the south to Wakefield, Michigan, in the north. Pastor Dejung made his tedious mission trips to Camp Four and other areas by rail, coach, horseback and even on foot. By October 1, 1891, began serving the people of Enterprise as a separate group. One Thursday out of every month he would meet with them and hold a worship service. It was in this year that the official church records begin with the baptism of "Martha Maria Ernstine Ottilie Kuksdorf" (Feb. 5, 1890).

As one can well imagine, Pastor Dejung became physically exhausted and finally, on July 13, 1896, the synod sent him a graduate assistant...none other than his own son, J. Dejung, Jr. Dejung Junior followed in the footsteps of his father in every way. It is recorded that on one Christmas he conducted eight services at eight different stations and in doing so traveled 325 miles by rail, 26 by handcar, and made a twenty mile trip on foot at night!

Father and son worked together for just over a year, but Dejung Senior's health was quickly waning. We are told, "For a last test of strength, he made three trips to the Enterprise section. He came home completely exhausted from the last one, January 17, 1897. Following the advice of his doctor to take a complete rest and move into the country, he moved to Cameron, Wisconsin in September of that year."

Before he left, however, he witnessed a joyful event. In 1897, the Lake Shore Mission Field was divided into three separate fields: Florence (5 stations), Rhinelander (8 stations) and Tomahawk-Enterprise (8 stations incl. Parrish, Enterprise, Pelican Lake, Elcho, Tomahawk, Arbor Vitae, Woodruff, Star Lake). As a result of this, a missionary was called to serve the two newly formed fields. Pastor C. Voges moved to Tomahawk and was installed on August 1, 1897. Two days later, on August the third, Enterprise installed their first part-time pastor.

Already at the end of 1896, the Lutheran men of Enterprise had joined together and formulated a church

constitution. On January 17, 1897, Der Evangelische Lutherische St. Johannes Gemeinde was formed. The constitution was originally signed by the following men: Gustav Schoeneck, Carl Kamke, Gustav Kussman, Wilhelm Wenzel, Herman Dehnel, Otto Vorpahl, Ferdinand Fandry, Carl Haase. Officers for this new congregation were soon elected from among these men. The results were as follows: President = Gustav Schoeneck Secretary = Gustav Kussmann Treasurer = Karl Kamke.

Filled with enthusiasm, the villagers immediately wanted a place set aside to worship their Lord. In 1895, a Mr. Cole of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, donated land to the congregation for just that purpose. The humble edifice (on the present site of the Connie Zander, Jr. home) was quickly erected with dimensions measuring 20x36x16. The exact date of the dedication service is unknown, but in 1898, St. John Ev. Lutheran Church completed its new church building. The service was conducted by C. Voges and J. DeJung, Jr. who each preached a dedicatory sermon.

Pastor Voges, however, did not serve Enterprise for very long. With the change of the century came also the change of the mission field and in 1900 St. John's became part of the Enterprise-Crandon field. With this change came a new pastor, G.H. Voss. Pastor Voss was installed in Enterprise on October 19, 1900 by his predecessor C. Voges and Pastor Adolph Spiering. The Gustav Schoeneck family took their new pastor in as a boarder making Enterprise his

home base. From here he served the towns of Enterprise, Parrish, Pelican Lake, Elcho, Monico, Three Lakes, Crandon and North Crandon (Argonne). Again, this did not last for long. In 1901 the mission field reverted back to the old Tomahawk-Enterprise field with the exact same stations and on August 18, 1901, Pastor Voss was installed in Tomahawk.

Pastor Voss continued to serve Enterprise until 1902 when, believe it or not, the field once again switched back to Crandon-Enterprise. Apparently the congregation in Elcho had had about enough changes, because it left Wisconsin and joined the Missouri Synod. At any rate, on January 5, 1902, Pastor G.E. Luedtke was installed in Crandon and shortly thereafter Pastor Dejung installed him also in Enterprise. Pastor Luedtke chose the later to be his home for a number of months, but moved to Crandon at the end of the year. During this time Pastor Dejung of Rhineland was supplied to serve Enterprise.

Pastor Voss' stay in Crandon was also brief and in 1904 Crandon's vacancy was filled by the Reverend P.W. Weber. He was installed on September 8 by Pastors Adolph Spiering and J. Dejung. He served Crandon, Enterprise and the entire field with the addition of Wabeno and Laona.

Once again, one year later, the fields were reshuffled. On July 23, 1905, Pastor A. Herzfeldt moved to Eagle River and was installed to serve the all new Eagle River-Enterprise field. Included in this field were the towns of Watersmeet, Mi. and the Wisconsin towns of State Line, Eagle



River, Three Lakes, Monico, Pelican Lake, Enterprise and Parrish. Shortly thereafter, Parrish was served by the Missouri Synod pastor from Gleason.

Up until this time St. Johns of Enterprise, although they had been continually served by Wisconsin, was not a member of any synod. However on April 8, 1906, St. John officially became a member of the Wisconsin Synod. She continued to be under the care of Pastor Herzfeldt until 1909.

Pastor H.A. Mueller accepted the call to Eagle River and was installed on July 25. He served Enterprise and the entire field for one year. Then, in the fall of 1910, he opened a parochial school in Eagle River. By law, the school needed to be running a full five days a week in order to stay open. Therefore it was necessary for his mission field to detach some of her stations. Pastor Dejung of Rhinelander was given Enterprise, Pelican Lake and Monico and thus the Rhinelander-Enterprise field came into being. At first, services were held every third Sunday morning in Enterprise. Evening services at Rhinelander on those Sundays necessitated a walk to Pelican Lake to catch the train. Conveyance of any other kind was often impossible. This was St. John's situation throughout World War I. In fact, things remained the same for an entire decade. Then in spring of 1921, services were changed to one Sunday morning and one Sunday afternoon service a month. When summer arrived, it was changed to two Sunday afternoons a

month. Zion in Rhineland continued to grow and finally it was no longer possible to for Pastor Dejung to serve St John Church.

The Church had grown enough by this time to be the headquarters of its own mission field. Consequently the Enterprise field was formed and was comprised of Enterprise, Monico and Pelican Lake. Pastor John Henning was called out of the seminary at Wauwatosa. He was installed on September 4, 1921 by Rev. J. Dejung, Jr.

The roaring twenties had arrived and the face of the country was changing. America had just won a war and growth and prosperity were found in abundance. It was during these times also that the membership of St. John Church had become so great that they had outgrown their original church building. Soon after the war there was talk of erecting a new edifice, but serious plans were not made until the early twenties. In the quarterly meeting of January 8, 1922, this simple statement was made: Vorgeslagen unterstuetzt und angenommen das wir anfangen ein neue kirche zu bauen. "The motion was made, seconded and carried that we begin to build a new church."

From that time on, each meeting gives more details as to the construction of the church. A committee of five men were elected to serve on the building committee. The new church was to be 32 feet wide and 52 feet long. The exterior was to be finished in stucco. Room was to be provided in front of the church for an organ. Plans were to

be drawn up by a Mr. Weidlich for the fee of \$75. The new church was to have two towers. In one of the meetings, the church site itself was discussed. The only way that the new church would be able to be built on the same plot as the old would be to move all of the graves in the old church cemetery. Mr. Otto Schoeneck offered a new site to the congregation (the SE corner of the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 in Section 28, Range 10, Township 35) about a mile and a half south of the village. The congregation unanimously accepted this site.

The next question was how to pay for this new structure. Two men were appointed to take up subscriptions for the new church. C.R. Guth, Herman Schoeneck and Arthur Haegele were also appointed as a committee to raise sufficient funds for the church. In addition, St. John voted to borrow \$5,000 from the synod and \$3,000 from the "Lutheran Aid Association." Reverend Henning and Arthur Haegele were also sent to the mission board meeting to ask for help. The Lord in his grace saw the congregation through all of these difficulties and the cornerstone of the new church was laid on June 11, 1922. One year later, on July 1, 1923, the dedication service was held with Rev. H. Pankow (Indian Creek, WI.) and Rev. Joseph Krubsack (Eagle River) officiating. St. John congregation had a new house of worship!

The church was not the only change that was made during that time period. In the midst of all of the planning and

building, several major decisions were made. These were decisions that were common to most Wisconsin Synod churches in those days, namely, "What language should we use in our church, German or English?" On January 8, 1922, it was decided that an English church service would be conducted on the second Sunday of every month. Because of this, it was necessary to begin to introduce English songbooks into the service. One year later, English services were offered every other Sunday. The minutes of all church meetings began to be written in English on January 18, 1922. By January of 1924, all church meetings were conducted in the English language and in 1929 there was only one German service a month.

With a new church building, the congregation felt that it was also time for a new constitution. In April of 1923 they appointed Reverend Henning to write up new constitution both in English and in German. However, their idea was delayed when on June 18, 1923, Pastor Henning accepted a call.

Over the years, the Pelican Lake Church had been absorbed into Enterprise. Therefore, the new call that was extended was simply for a dual parrish: Grace in Monico and St John in Enterprise. Three men were called consecutively and each one declined the call. However, on the first Sunday of November in 1923, Pastor Fuhlbrigge was installed as the new shepherd of these flocks by Rev. Huth of Wabeno.

Apparantly Pastor Fuhlbrigge owned an automobile, because shortly after he arrived, the woodshed on the old church property was moved to the parsonage (then owned by Herman Schoeneck) and converted into a garage. The congregation also formed a "wood bee" and supplied him with enough cords to keep his home well heated.

During his years in Enterprise, Pastor Fuhlbrigge also played a role in several changes. On October 5, 1924, it was decided to put electric lighting in the new church. The idea of revising the constitution was also revived and became a reality on July 11, 1926. On this same date, the congregation also voted that each communicant member pledge \$1.40 toward the new Thiensville seminary building fund. Reverend Fuhlbrigge preached his farewell sermon on November 18, 1928. He had these words to say about St. John's congregation in his closing minutes: "During my time everything was peaceful in the congregation and the church attendance was admirable, showing that the people were glad to have God's Word preached to them."

As the congregation went about calling a new minister, Reverend Bergmann from Rhinelander served as a vacancy pastor for Enterprise and Monico during the winter and spring months. On July 28, 1929, the Reverend Raymond A. Haase was installed by Rev. Krubsack. Pastor Haase lived at the Herman Schoeneck residence during his ministry in Enterprise and became close friends with Herman's daughter Ella. On June 22, 1930, the wedding of R.A. Haase and Ella

Louise Schoeneck is recorded in the church records. One year later, Rev. Haase accepted a call and gave his farewell sermon on April 12, 1931. Pastor Haase is now retired and living with Ella in North Mankato, Minnesota.

There was a short three month vacancy in Enterprise during which time the Reverend Herbert J. Lemke was called to serve. He was installed by Rev. Krubsack on July 19, 1931. Due to a pressing need at that time, Pastor Lemke was also asked to serve Crandon, Hiles and Argonne in addition to Enterprise and Monico. These were the years of the great depression in America and the reverberations of the crashing stock market were felt all over. This fact becomes clear in the minutes of the quarterly meetings. It is recorded there that insurance on the church was reduced from \$9,000 to \$6,000. The church owed so much at this time, that a special committee was formed to try to gather money for local debts. On October 15, 1933, the need became so great that the motion is recorded "to rent Archie Johnson's field for potatoes for one year to help pay our debts."

The heavy work load was extremely difficult for Pastor Lemke, so on November 19, 1933, he installed the newly called Pastor Henry E. Pussehl to take over the Enterprise-Monico part of his field. A part of Pastor Pussehl's ministry was involved in planning the 40th anniversary of the church. Before the anniversary date in 1937, the congregation went about remodeling certain parts of the church. Galvanized tin was installed on the tower. It was

voted that wood siding be applied to the front exterior of the church in place of the wood shingles which had been used to cover the stucco. Later, however, it was decided to use "brick effect shingles" instead. Kneeling benches were built for the altar and an outdoor toilet was constructed. The main addition to the church was a a brand new furnace "complete with blower". Anniversary envelopes were distributed to help defray the cost.

Finally, on May 23, 1937, the 40th anniversary of the church was celebrated. There were two worship services in which two former pastors delivered the sermons. "The Reverend A. Herzfeldt of Appleton, Wisconsin preached in the morning service at 10:00; while Pastor G.H. Voss of Ratavia, Illinois occupied the pulpit in the afternoon service at 2:00. Dinner was served by the Ladies Aid."

Included among some other changes that took place during Rev. Pussehl's ministry was the addition of a new roof of asphalt shingles applied by various volunteering members. The congregation also discussed the possibility of building a parsonage next to the church. In addition, there was the highly debated question of whether to keep the old hymnals or switch to the all new book entitled "The Lutheran Hymnal". The minutes from April 6, 1941 read, "After considerable discussion, a motion was made and seconded that this congregation acquire new hymnals. The motion carried." Rev. Pussehl would not have the chance to introduce the new hymnal to the people of Enterprise however, for one month

later we read, "Pastor Henry E. Pussehl preached his farewell sermon on May 25, 1941."

The congregation, being without a pastor, once again called Pastor Herbert Lemke. Pastor Lemke accepted the call and was installed on August 3, 1941 by Rev. Paul Gieschen of Rhineland. Pastors Krubsack and Koepsell (Crandon) assisted. The scope of the call included the parishes of Enterprise and Monico. It was decided at that time that it was not possible to build a new parsonage. Rather, the congregation would rent Paul Hein's house to accommodate their new pastor.

Pastor Lemke had originally served St. John during the depression when great debts had accumulated. Over the years of this second call, he worked hard to reduce those debts. He found much success, especially in regard to the AAL who not only canceled back interest and reduced the debt, but also lowered the rate of interest.

Even as he was first called during a trying time in history, so also his second call coincided with another human tragedy - World War II. Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, several of the boys of the congregation were called over seas to serve their country. On April 12, 1942, the voters decided to purchase a "service flag" with stars on it for each boy from the congregation who was in the service. At that same meeting another change was made. As one might expect, the German language was not very popular in those years. That may have been one of the factors in



this decision: "that we copy the Constitution in our books so that each member may sign it. The English constitution was never signed by our members and since our newer members cannot read German it would be better to have them sign the constitution which is in the English language." One year later this motion was carried out. The English constitution was read before the congregation and signed by all, even those who had originally signed the German document. In 1944, Pastor Lemke accepted a call to Lomira, Wisconsin. He preached his farewell sermon on June 25. Since then Pastor Lemke has retired and he and his wife Helen remain as residents of Lomira. Their daughter Ruth is married to Kleth Krueger and is presently a member at St. John.

Reverend Walter Gieschen of Rhinelander served as vacancy pastor in Enterprise during the summer months. On Sunday evening, September 18, 1944, Pastor F.C. Weyland was installed as the congregation's new shepherd.

The following year the war ended and the men began to return home. Between the post-war weddings and the baptisms of the baby boomers, Pastor Weyland had his hands full. He was also the witness of several events and changes. By April 1, 1945, the congregation had completely paid up their debt. One year later, the congregation sold their original church property to Oscar Schoeneck and once again began talking about a new parsonage. The pastors had been living in the Kushmann home located behind the town hall. Later,

it was decided to rent Otto Schoeneck Junior's house until something else could be worked out.

The 50th anniversary of the congregation didn't seem to get quite as much attention as the 40th. The half-century event was celebrated in conjunction with the mission festival on Sunday, November 2, 1947. More than likely in connection with this anniversary, however, a major redecoration of the church was undertaken the very next year. The redecorating must have been quite extensive, because during the time the job was being done, the congregation met in the Enterprise schoolhouse. The only thing recorded in the minutes is that the light fixtures were replaced and the front steps were repaired. However, it speaks of a list of at least 16 changes made during that time. In 1952, a new oil furnace was also installed in the church for the cost of \$1675.

At the July 2, 1950 meeting, two motions were accepted: 1)Begin a fund for a new organ

2)Order plans for building a new parsonage.

The idea of a new parsonage was discussed and debated for several months before any building actually got under way. Then things began to shape up. The lumber needed for the home was purchased from Lester Schoeneck and Tom Rush. The land was surveyed and the proper insurance was acquired. The new parsonage was dedicated on the afternoon of November 2, 1952. As for the church organ, the fund was in existence for seven years. In October of 1957 the waiting period was

over and the worship service was enhanced by the music of a brand new Baldwin Electronic Organ.

After being a part of all of these many different changes in the church, Pastor Weyland retired due to failing health in early 1962. For the next half a year, the vacancy at Enterprise was filled by Rev. Jerome Kingsbury of Crandon. During this time also, the Mission Board decided that Enterprise should divide from Monico and join with Redeemer in Tomahawk. In May the Wisconsin Synod assignment committee assigned James R. Radloff, graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, to serve these two parishes. He was ordained and installed on July 7, 1962, by Rev. J. Kingsbury (Crandon), Rev. Marvin Radtke (Eagle River) and Rev. Wilbert Gawrisch (Rhineland).

During Pastor Radloff's ministry at St. John, several building projects were continued. In September of 1963, it was decided to cover the entire front of the church with imitation stone and to build a canopy over the front doors and steps. There was also talk of enlarging the sacristy and enclosing the rear stairway. Many improvements were made in the parsonage. A study and a classroom/recreation room were built in the basement in 1964. In 1965, inlaid linoleum was installed in the kitchen, bathroom and hallway. In that same year it was decided that since so many tourists were attending church in the summer, Sunday morning and evening services would be held in June, July and August.

The most exciting blessing came to the congregation on January 21, 1964. The voters determined to be self-supporting and no longer receive financial aid from the WELS! Shortly after this they determined to enlarge their church council from three members to six members. They also felt the need to once again amend their new constitution. The final draft was sent to synod for approval and on January 8, 1967 was adopted by the congregation.

Over the course of Pastor Radloff's stay in Enterprise he received a total of five calls to everywhere from Iowa and California to several right here in Wisconsin. In the spring of 1967, he accepted the divine call to Litchfield, Minnesota. Today Pastor Radloff and his family live in Austin, Texas, where he serves as Mission Counselor for the South Central District.

Enterprise immediately decided to call another man from the seminary. In May of 1967, the Holy Spirit provided Walter O.H. Goers to serve both St. John and Redeemer in Tomahawk. He was ordained and installed on July 2 by the Reverend Professor F. Blume of the seminary in Mequon. The sermon was preached by Rev. David Kock (Rhineland). Also present were Pastors Thomas Spielberg (Hurley), E. Kahrs (Wabeno) and Eugene Kock (Minocqua).

The church's 70th anniversary was celebrated on the afternoon of August 27, 1967. As was the custom, this anniversary brought with it several major renovations. In September new carpeting was put in the living room of the

parsonage. This was followed by a list of changes in the church itself: "A new outside door and paneling were purchased for the bottom front entry and stairway. A new carpet was installed in the chancel, sacristy, main and side isles, hallway, cloak room and stairways. The rest of the floor in the nave was sanded, sealed, varnished and waxed just prior to the carpet installation...first steps in remodeling the church basement were completed with the installation of a new system of heating in the fall of 1967."

In the years that Pastor Goers served in Enterprise, he promoted several synod programs such as "Called to Serve" (1970), "The Big Step Forward" (1971), and "Walk Together" (1971). He also enjoyed working with the youth. He took the Young People's Society on a recruitment visit to New Ulm. He encourage the congregation to offer more opportunities for their children and on April 19, 1970, a Lutheran Pioneers troop was begun in Enterprise. Pastor Goers accepted a call on October 15, 1972 to Randolph, Wisconsin. He is presently still serving Friedens Church in that community.

St. John's called several men to fill their vacancy, but none of them accepted. During this time Pastor Eugene Kock (Minocqua) filled in as vacancy pastor. In March of 1973, it was decided to once again call a man out of the seminary. On July 29, 1973, Dean Fleming was assigned to

St. John Enterprise and her sister congregation Grace in Monico.

St. John again decided it was time to build and added an addition to the front of the church. They enclosed and carpeted the front steps of the structure and later added on bathrooms and a fellowship area to each side of the addition. Also, both of the front tower were lowered and capped with slanting roofs. The dedication of this new addition took place on November 4, 1979.

In January of 1976, Pastor Fleming informed the congregation that the Antigo area would be explored as a possible site for a future mission. Shortly thereafter, he began to hold services there on a fairly regular basis. In 1979 it was voted to keep Antigo on a mission basis. By 1982, Ascension Lutheran Church was opened in Antigo and presently holds a membership of 126 souls.

During Pastor Fleming's first years in the ministry, the idea of a Lutheran High School being opened in Rhinelander was being examined. Enterprise continually invited men to come and talk to them about this prospect becoming a reality. Northland Lutheran High School was opened not in Rhinelander, but in Merrill, Wisconsin. On January 21, 1979, St. John joined the NLHS federation.

Other dates which stick out in Pastor Fleming's ministry are 1975 and the celebration of the Wisconsin Synod's 125th Anniversary under the program known as "GRACE 125". On July of 1983, the church adopted a unified

budget system. Finally, shortly before he moved on, St. John graciously gave out of their hearts to the synod's "Reaching Out" offering. On June 30, 1985, Pastor Fleming accepted a call and is currently an instructor at Winnebago Lutheran Academy in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

The brief vacancy was filled by Pastor David Kock in Rhinelander. On August 11, 1985, Robert Smith, a graduate of the seminary was assigned to Enterprise and Monico. Since his call to St. John, a board of Elders has been formed in January of 1987 and a revised constitution was accepted on April 12 of the same year. Pastor Smith is presently serving St. John congregation and resides at the parsonage with his wife Eileen, daughter Emily and son Jason.

This year, 1988, marks St. John Lutheran Church's 91st year of existence. St John always has been and still is the only church in the town of Enterprise. Throughout the years the church has ministered to hundreds of people. The following statistics give the grand totals of each service that the church has provided:

BAPTISMS: 433  
CONFIRMATIONS: 255  
MARRIAGES: 120  
BURIALS: 132

At the present time, St John has 175 Baptized members

150 Communicant members

But these are much more than statistics. These are people. A combination of people who once walked this earth

and people who still walk it. This is the story of people who loved their Savior and by his grace were saved. These are people with immortal souls who during their lives gave countless hours to the church and to the precious Gospel message. These are saints washed in the blood of our Savior Jesus.

God has used St. John Enterprise as his tool to bring the Gospel message to people of all ages for almost a century. Through St. John, many other missions were started throughout the northwoods. Through the message of her faithful pastors and the personal evangelism of her dedicated members, St. John has brought some to faith and preserved faith in others. For this we thank you, oh Lord! May you guide and direct this church far into their second century of loving service to you.

OH LORD LET THIS THY LITTLE FLOCK, THY NAME ALONE  
CONFESSING,  
CONTINUE IN THY LOVING CARE, TRUE UNITY POSSESSING.  
THY SACRAMENTS, O LORD,  
AND THY SAVING WORD  
TO US E'ER PURE RETAIN.  
GRANT THAT THEY MAY REMAIN  
OUR ONLY STRENGTH AND COMFORT.

TLH 477

History written by

Timothy Schoeneck

May 9, 1988



The following is a listing of all of the church officers  
named in the minutes of the meetings

#### PRESIDENTS

Jan 17, 1897	Gustav Schoeneck
Jan 7, 1900	Julius Schoeneck
Jan 27, 1924	William Haase
Jan 5, 1930	Adolph Schoeneck
Jan 1, 1939	Otto Schoeneck, Jr.
Jan 18, 1942	Arthur Passehl
May 3, 1942	Leonard Guth
Jan 11, 1948	Edward Olsen
Jan 7, 1951	Lester Schoeneck
Jan 10, 1954	Rudolph Muenchow
Jan 6, 1957	Edward Zander
Jan 10, 1960	Richard Rasmussen
Jan 13, 1963	Conrad Zander
Feb 6, 1966	Len Underdale
Jan 1969	Conrad Zander, Jr.
Jan 1971	Conrad Zander, Sr.
Jan 1974	Herbert Guth
Jan 1975	Harris Krueger
Jan 1976	Ron Zander
Jan 1979	Glen Erdman
Jan 1984	Earl Boetcher

#### SECRETARIES

Jan 17, 1897	Gustav Kussmann
Dec 29, 1901	Reinhardt Schoeneck
Jan 8, 1922	Arthur Haegele
Jan 1, 1925	Erwin Guth
Jan 12, 1941	Herold Guth
Jan 30, 1944	Arnold Schoeneck
Jan 12, 1947	Conrad Zander
Jan 8, 1950	Herbert Buchholz
Jan 4, 1953	August Schoeneck
Jan 8, 1956	Alvin Haegele
Jan 11, 1959	Paul Hein
Jan 14, 1962	Edward Buchholz
Jan 17, 1965	Arthur Passehl
Jan 14, 1968	Conrad Zander, Sr.
1969	Conrad Zander, Jr.
1971	?
Jan 1975	Myron Wanty
1977	Darrell Thomas
1979	Randy Schoeneck
1984	Robert Vleis

## TREASURERS

Jan 17, 1897	Karl Kamke
Jan 7, 1900	Herman Dehnel
Jan 6, 1901	Julius Kussmann
Dec 27, 1906	Gustav Schoeneck, Sr.
Jan 1, 1911	Adolph Schoeneck
Jan 8, 1922	Otto Schoeneck
Jan 17, 1931	Alvin Haegele
Jan 24, 1937	Edward Schoeneck
Jan 12, 1940	Herbert Marquardt
Jan 17, 1943	Bruno Schoeneck
Jan 27, 1946	Paul Hein
Jan 2, 1949	Harris Krueger
Jan 13, 1952	Edward Schoeneck
Oct 4, 1953	Herbert Marquardt
Jan 9, 1955	Peter Riegert
Jan 12, 1958	Herbert Guth
Jan 15, 1961	Erwin Wendt
Jan 21, 1964	Harris Krueger
1970-1983	?
1983	Rueben Zander

In writing this history, I refered to the following sources:

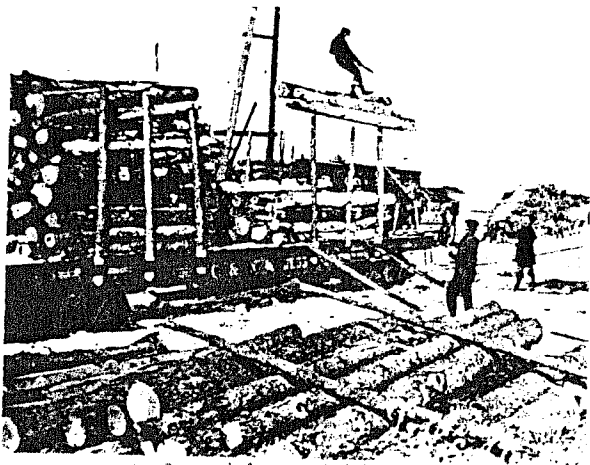
St. John record books and minutes of voters and council meetings.

Dedication and anniversary booklets of Zion in Rhineland.

"Oneida County Centennial History Edition" Ed. Lelah Brusio, Hahn Printing Inc., Eagle River, Wisconsin, 1987.



Enterprise - Early in the 1900s



Robert's Siding



Main street Enterprise  
Turn of the Century



Early Enterprise families

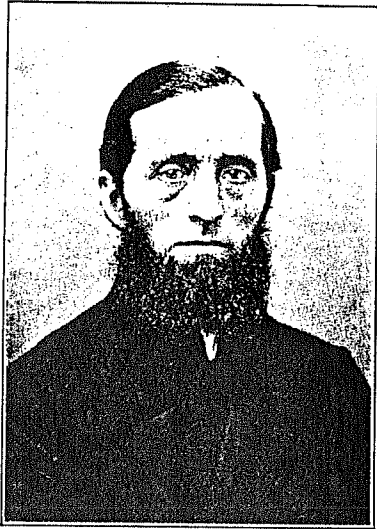
ST JOHN'S EARLIEST PASTORS



REVEREND W. KISTERMAN



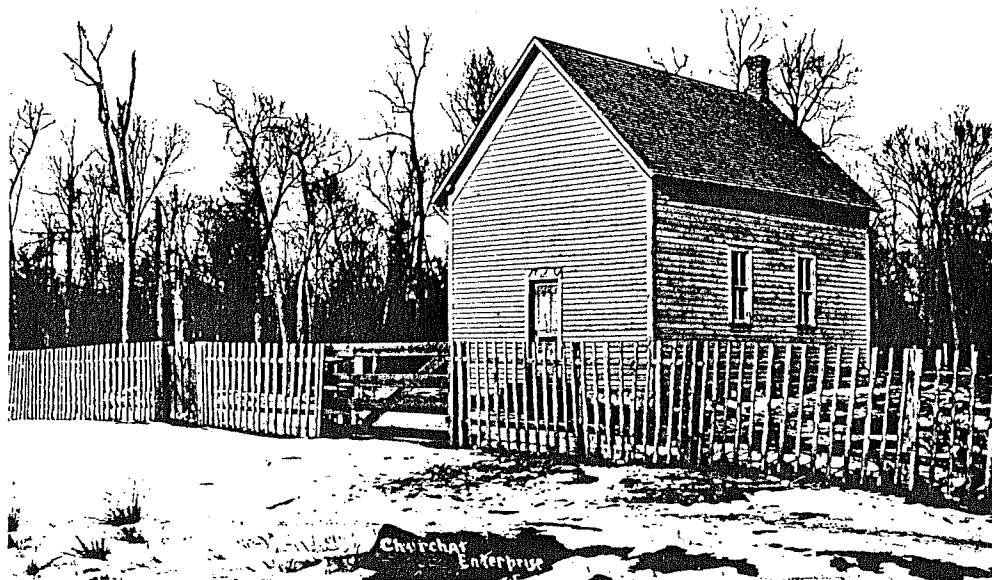
REVEREND J. DEJUNG, JR.



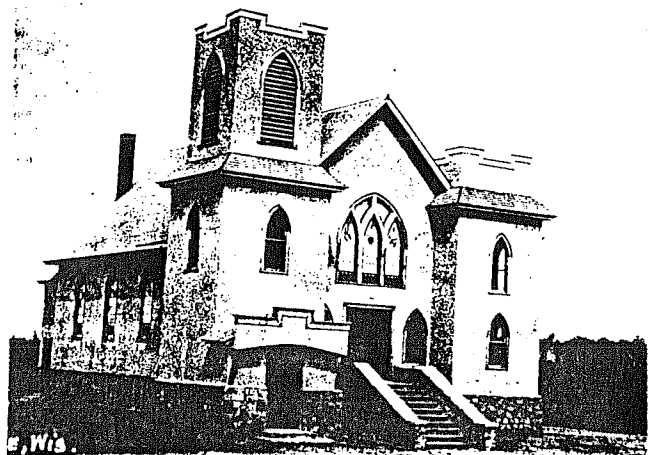
REVEREND J. DEJUNG, SR.



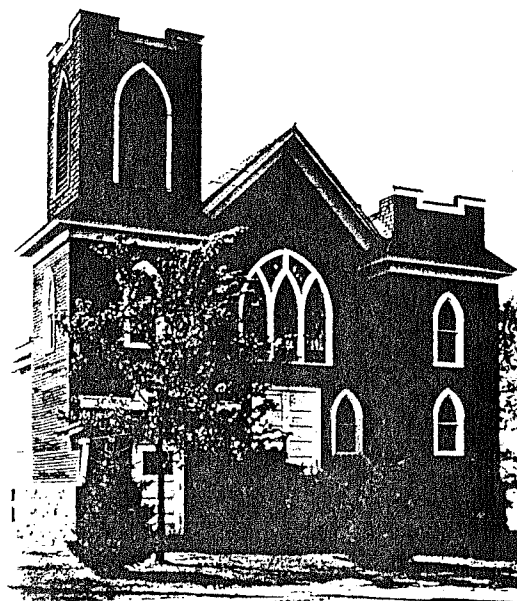
REVEREND C. F. RUTZEN



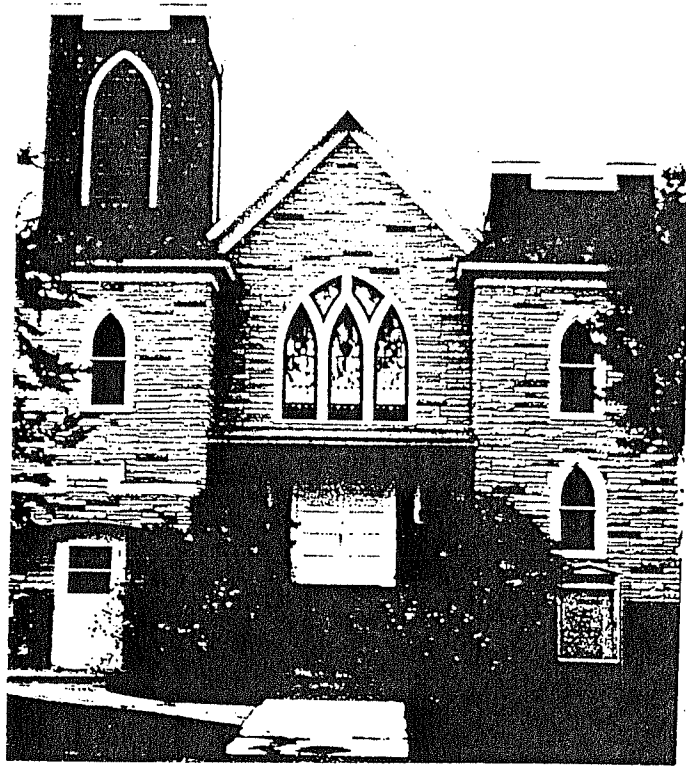
First House of Worship 1897



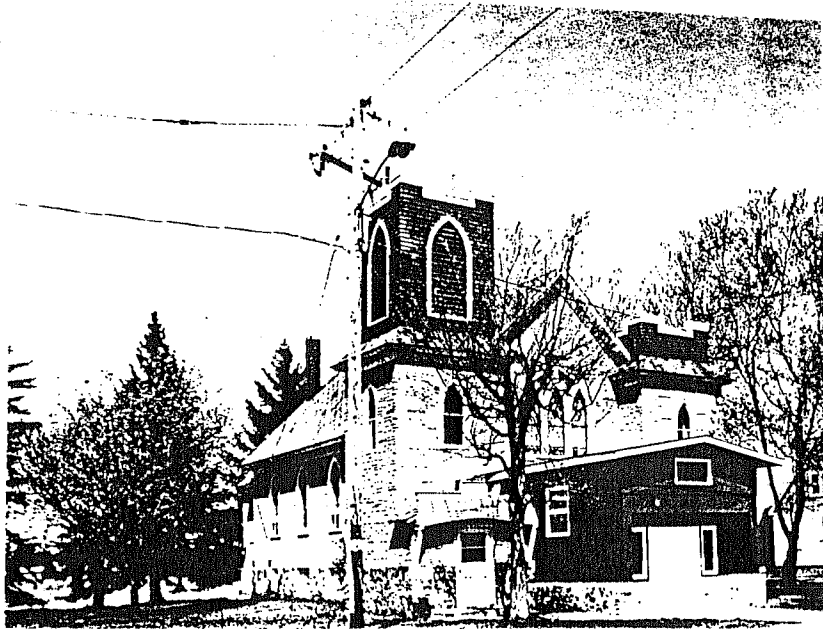
The New Church 1922



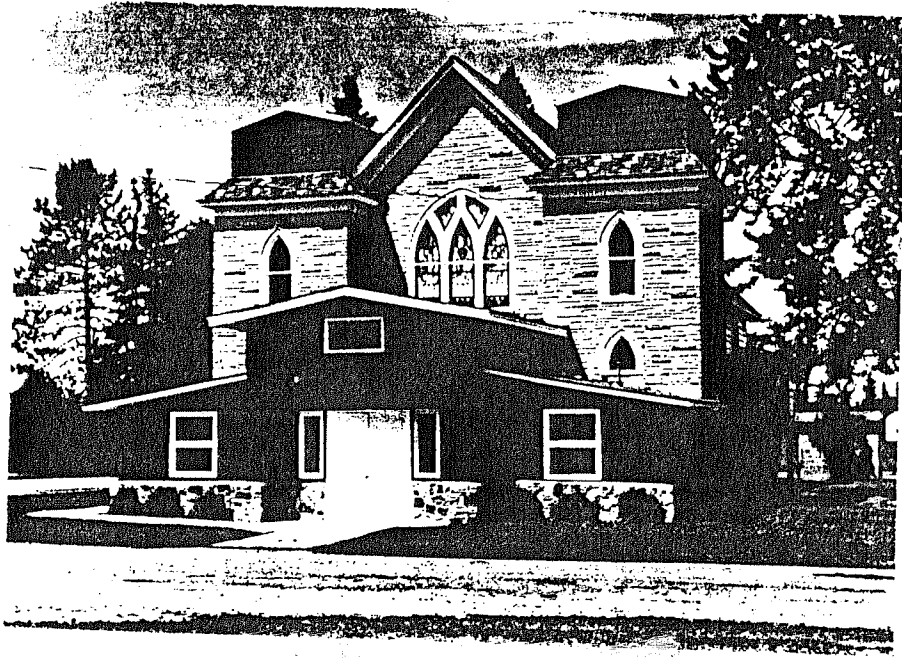
Wood siding added



Imitation brick & canopy

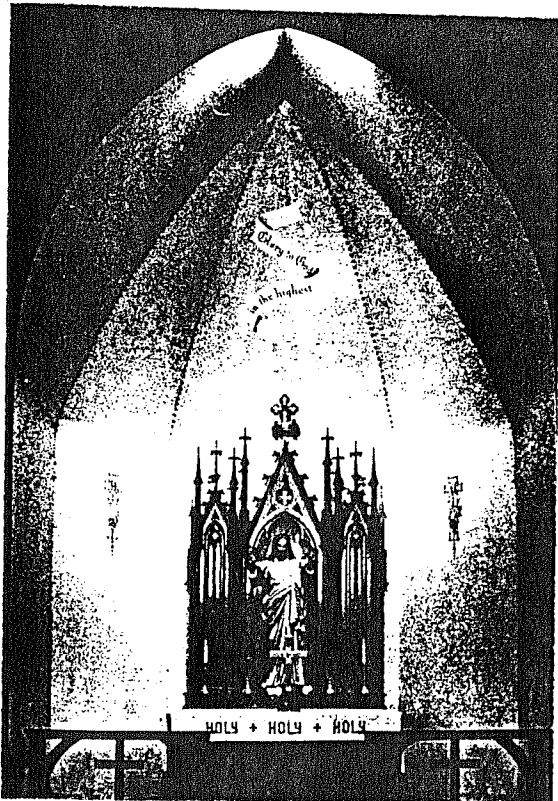


Front Entrance Enclosed



Addition built on to new Entrance

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Library



St. John's altar



Sister cong. Grace, Monico