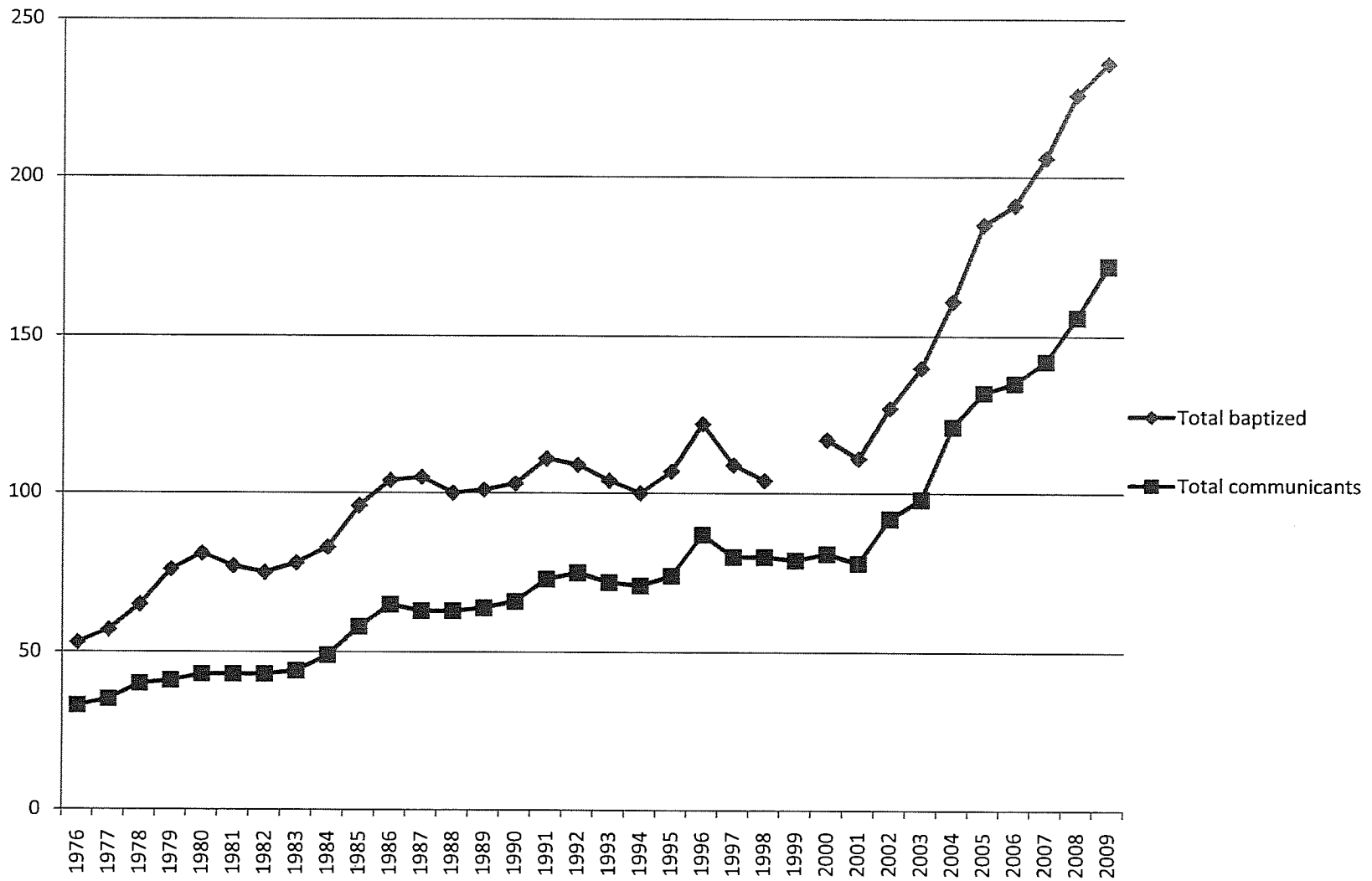
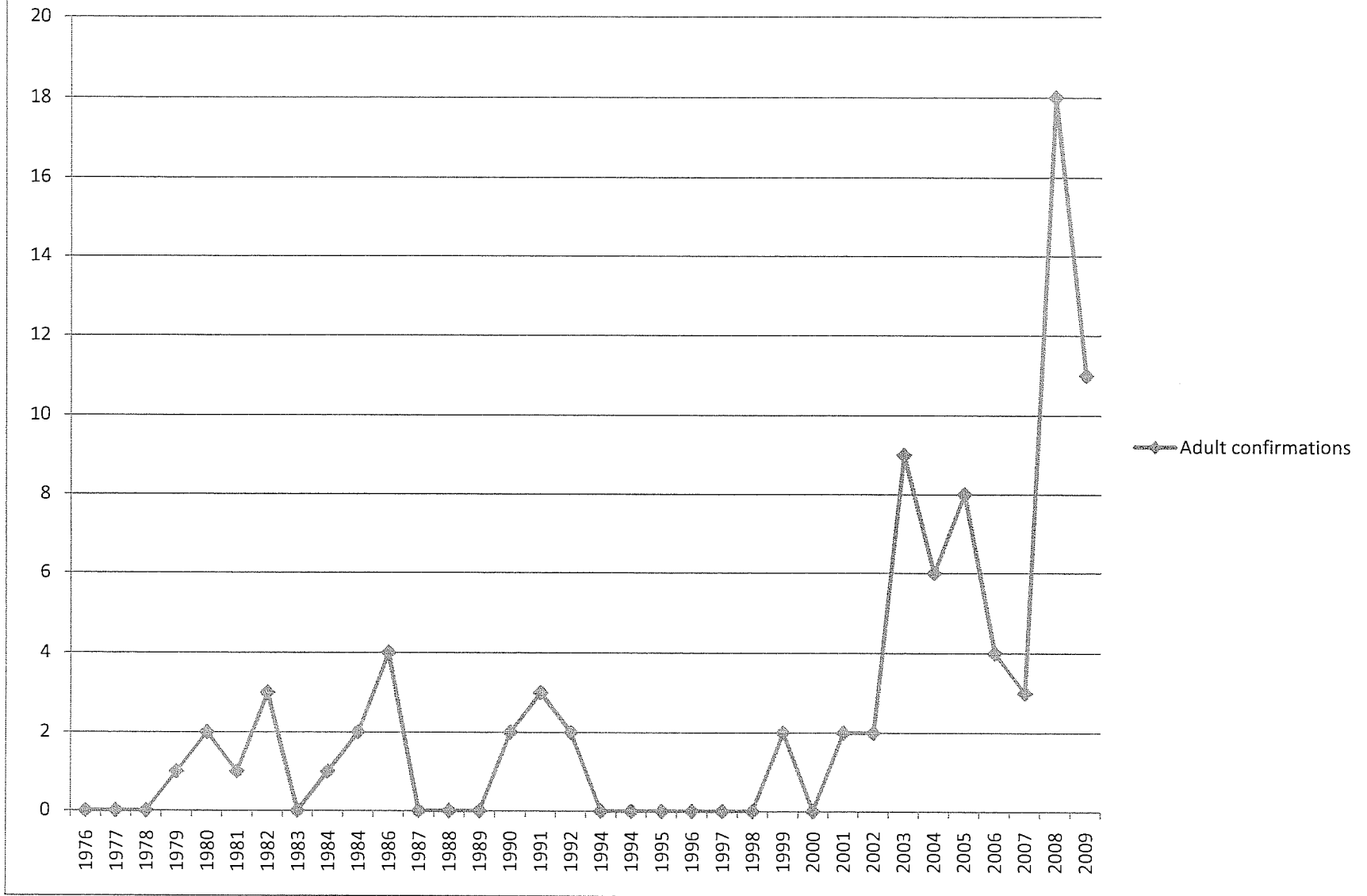


Memberships Statistics of Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church



Note: Area where there is no line between years shows no information available.

Adult Confirmations in Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church



The History of God's Grace to Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church in Galesville and Arcadia, Wisconsin – Pictorial

By Jason A. Strong

Below - the sign in front of the building in Galesville has changed multiple times throughout Bethel's history. (Photos courtesy of Darlene Johnson)



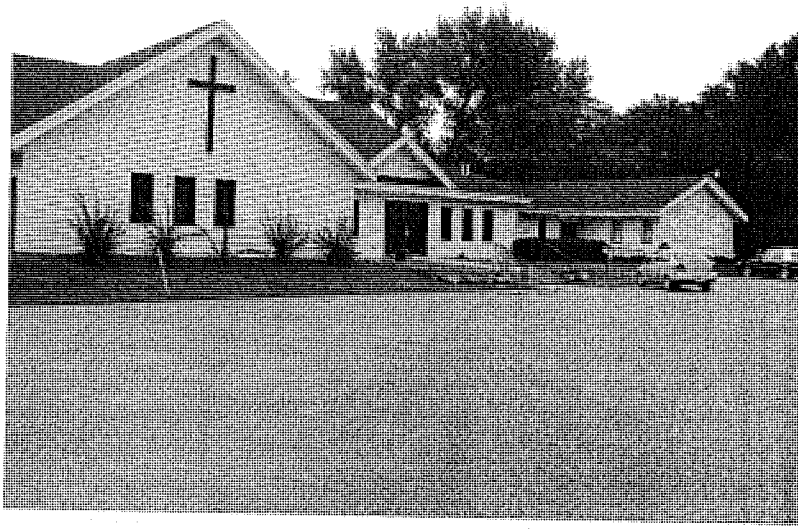
Right – Vicar Tyler Piel and his wife, Jill, pose in a picture with Pastor Nathan Strutz in 2004. (Photo courtesy of Darlene Johnson)



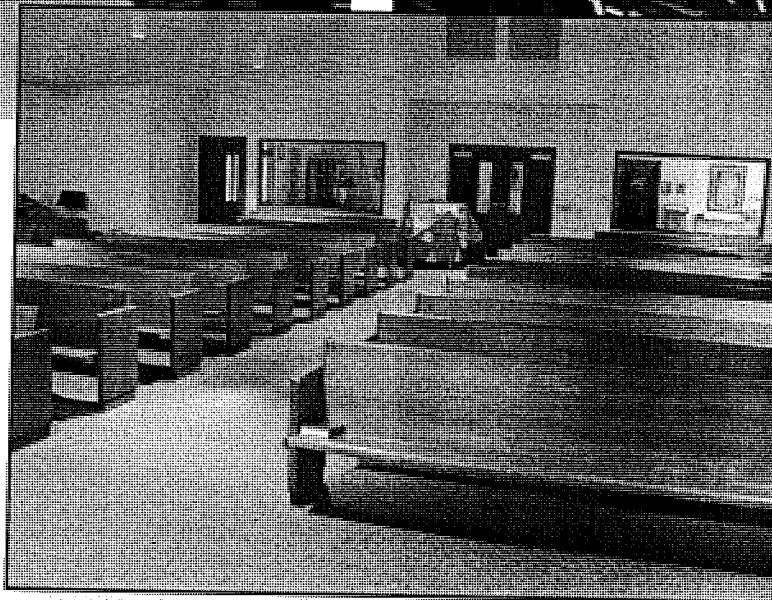
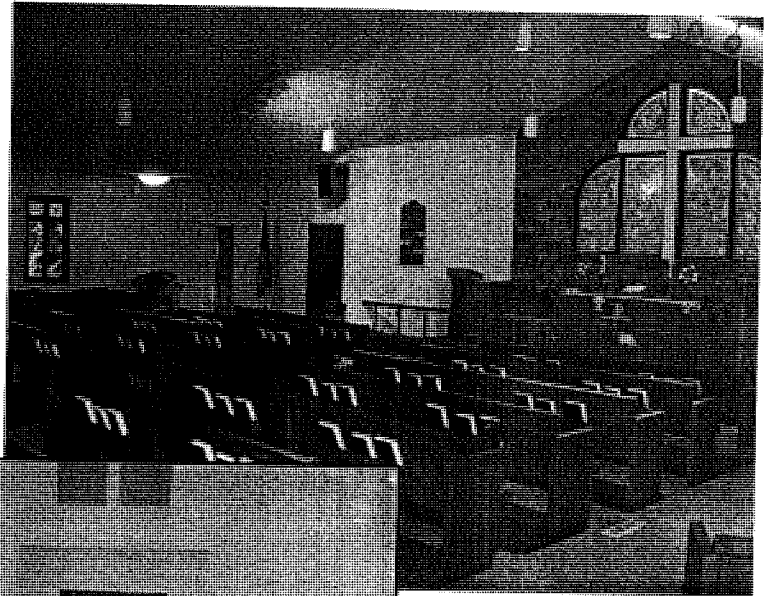
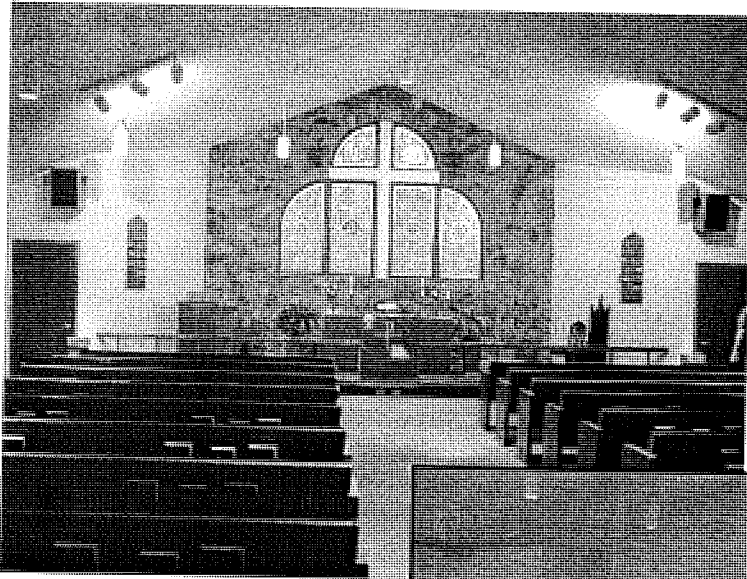
Left – Construction of the addition to the original W/E/F unit in Galesville during the summer of 2003. (Photo courtesy of Darlene Johnson)

Right – Elizabeth and Pastor Strutz pose with Bethel's second vicar, Dan Olson, along with Dan's wife Katie and daughter Madlyen in 2005. (Photo courtesy of Darlene Johnson)





Bethel's Galesville Campus in 2010.
(Photos courtesy of author)



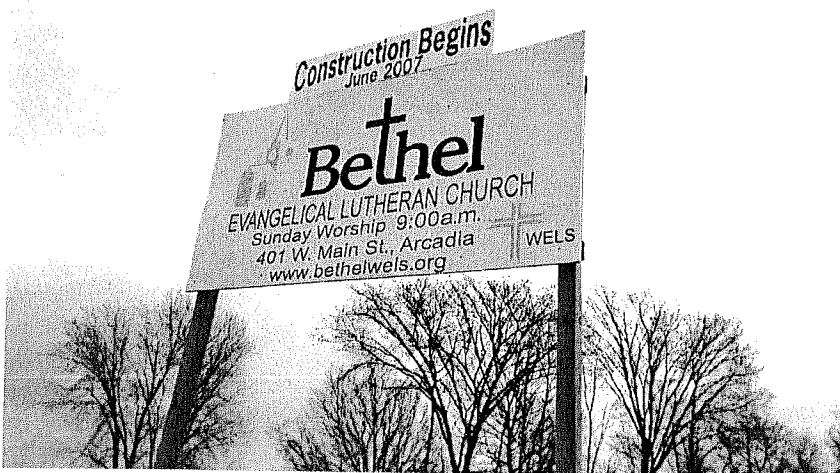
Appendix 2 – Pictorial 4



Left - Arcadia members first met together in the Electric Utility Building in downtown Arcadia. (Photo courtesy of Eileen Hanson)



Left – The site for the Arcadia campus, purchased in 2007. (Photo courtesy of Eileen Hanson)



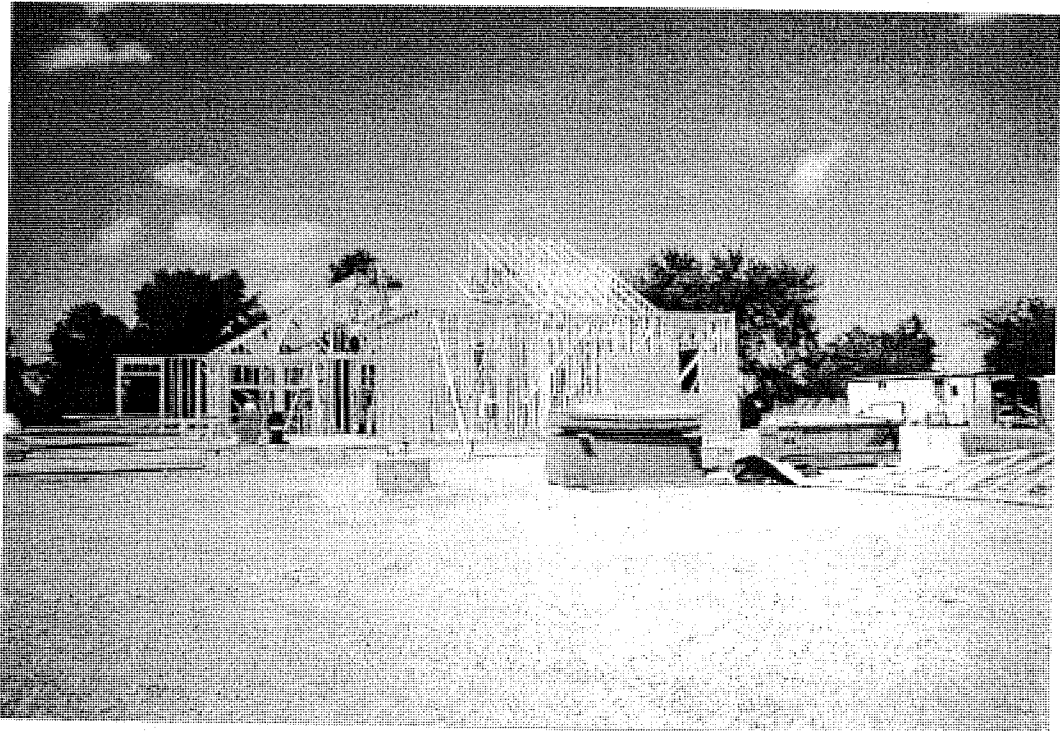
Left – Sign posted on Arcadia’s property announces coming construction in 2007. (Photo courtesy of Eileen Hanson)

Right – (from left to right) Tim Betts and Ben Golden, the project managers for the building in Arcadia, on Groundbreaking Day, April 2007. (Photo courtesy of Eileen Hanson)



Below – Pastor Nathan Strutz (middle) leads Groundbreaking Service with Arcadia members watching. (Photo courtesy of Eileen Hanson)





Bethel Lutheran Church construction in Arcadia during the summer of 2007. (Photos courtesy of Eileen Hanson)



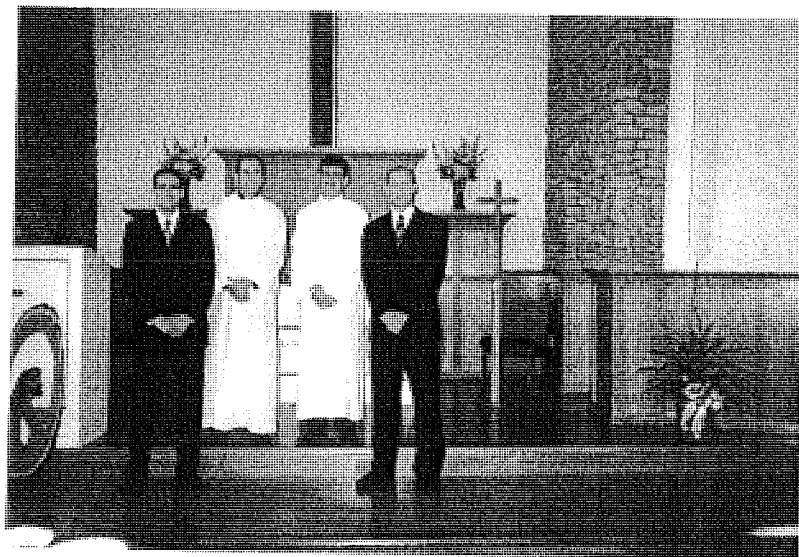


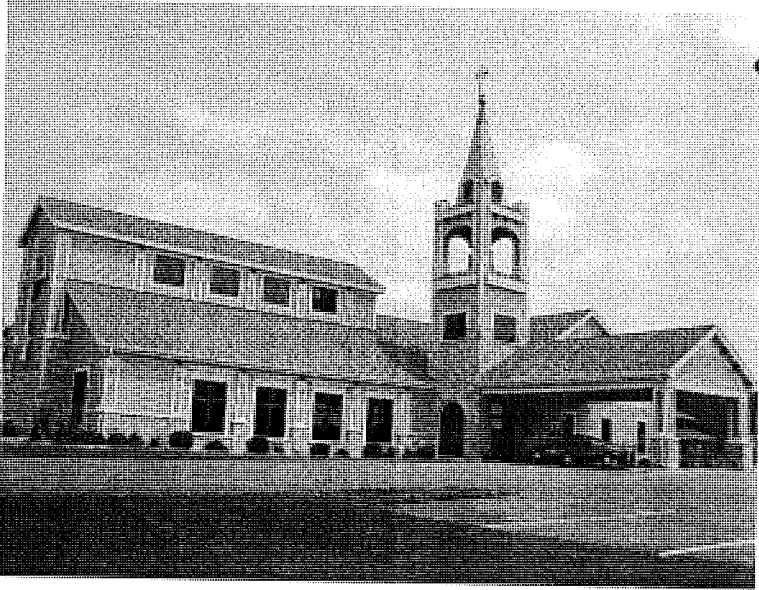
Above – The complete Arcadia facility in April 2008. (Photo courtesy of Eileen Hanson)

Right – Martin Luther statue, donated by anonymous donor in 2008. (Photo courtesy of Eileen Hanson)

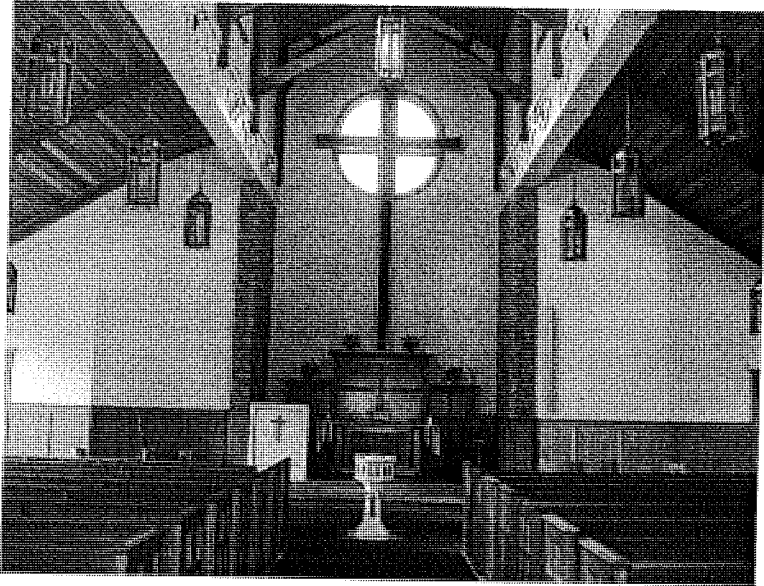


Below – (from left to right) Former Vicar Michael Novotny, Pastor Nathan Strutz, Vicar Noah Headrick, and former Vicar Jonathon Bourman at Arcadia's dedication service on April 27, 2008. (Photo courtesy of Eileen Hanson)

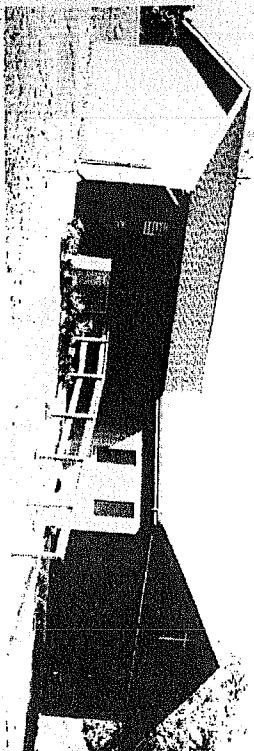




The Bethel's Arcadia Campus in 2010.
(Photos courtesy of author)



WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING TO THE LORD'S WORK



BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH GALESVILLE, WISCONSIN

June 14, 1981

And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, "Surely the Lord is in this place: and I knew it not." And he was afraid and said, "How dreadful is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. And he called the name of the place Bethel.

Genesis 28:16-19

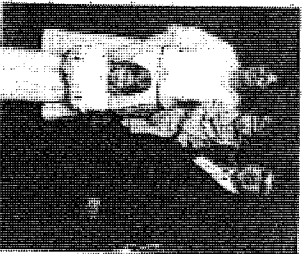
We give Thee but
Thine own, What-
e'er the gifts
may be: All that
we have is Thine
alone, A trust,
O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As steward
true receive and gladly as Thou Bless-
est us, To Thee our first fruits give!
Hymn 441 vs. 1 & 2

Therefore as we
dedicate this
building today
We wish to Thank
each of you who
has contributed
to our Worship/
Education/ Fellow-
ship unit. Come
worship with us
again.

Members of Bethel

FROM THE PASTOR



**Pastor & Karen Swartz
Kristine and Timothy**

The dedication of a new church facility is indeed a special event in the lives of all those connected with the church. In the event of dedicating the first permanent worship facility for a new congregation, the event is even more special. The dedication serves as a public announcement by the congregation's members of what our almighty God has permitted His people to do to His glory. It is the outward evidence of His work being carried out among us. But more importantly this outward evidence of God's work being done among us shows the dedication of our members to carry out God's work.

The events leading up to this day of dedication are clearly indicative of our commitment to have God's Word taught among us in its truth and purity. The initial enthusiasm of having a church which teaches as we believe has been put to the test over the years as we experienced the frustrations of purchasing land and erecting a building. Some who began with us have grown weary. The task has seemed an enormous undertaking for so few. But today as we enjoy the fruits of our labors for God's kingdom, all the difficult and time-consuming work, all the donations of time, talents, and money are bearing results in a tangible manner. The results are well worth the expenses of our time, talents, abilities, and money.

As we the members of Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church dedicate our new facility for the service of our Triune God, the meaning of this act is even shown in our name - BETHEL. For Bethel means "House of God" and that is truly what we wish to dedicate - a house in which we may worship and learn about our God; a house in which others may come to know our Savior as we have learned to know Him. This house that we dedicate to the Lord is not built for ourselves alone, nor for our children, but for all the people of our area who wish to hear God's Word.

Therefore, as we dedicate this building to the glory of our Triune God and for His service, let us also rededicate ourselves to His service. May this building be used always to the glory of God and to furtherance of His kingdom. But this building is only a tool, and instrument to further God's Work among us. Our work is not yet completed, it has only progressed another small step. May we always realize that our labors for God's Kingdom are never finished while we remain here on earth. Until everyone knows that Jesus Christ is his Savior, there is much to do.

THE WISCONSIN SYNOD AND TREMPEALEAU COUNTY

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Synod. The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod is not new in its existence as a Synod nor in its involvement in Trempealeau County. The Synod was established at a meeting in Granville, Wisconsin on May 26, 1850. The Wisconsin Synod joined in a federation with the Minnesota Synod and Michigan Synod in October of 1892 under the organization name of "The General Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, and Other States." This federation became the merged body of "The Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and Other States" in August, 1917, at a convention held in St. Paul, Minnesota. The reason for this reorganization was the belief that closer union would further aid in their united efforts to spread the Gospel. The doctrinal unity of these individual Synods was evident since the federation began. In later years the name of the Joint Synod was shortened to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Today the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod is well known for its faithful adherence to the teachings of the Holy Bible and the confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Faith. There are over 1,100 WELS congregations spread throughout 48 states. These congregations support one of the largest parish school systems among protestant church bodies. This system includes over 350 grade schools, 19 area Lutheran High Schools, 3 Synodical boarding high schools, 3 colleges, and a Seminary. Mission work is carried out in Africa, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Indonesia, India, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Colombia, Germany, Canada, and Antigua. In addition to the over 250 mission congregations located in the United States, extensive work among the Apache Indians was begun in 1893 and continues to this day. Wisconsin Synod pastors are responsible for formulating the Apache language from a spoken language to a written language. Four congregations still conduct services regularly in the Apache language.

In Trempealeau County the Wisconsin Synod had two congregations for several years, one in Arcadia and one outside Whitehall. These congregations left the Wisconsin Synod in 1959. The one in Arcadia has since ceased to exist; the one outside Whitehall has affiliated itself with The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. In Galesville, exploratory work was carried out by the Wisconsin Synod in 1914.

Excerpts from a letter by Reverend Paul C. Eggert to Pastor James Mumm, in charge of the early exploratory work in Galesville in 1916, providing us with the following information:

"Some months ago the Northwestern Lutheran had the notice: 'Exploratory services in Galesville!' The Wisconsin Synod has been in Galesville in past years."

"In 1914 the Pastor of Arcadia was conducting services in Galesville once a month, in the Norwegian church. The Pastor north of Whitehall was conducting services, once a month in public school houses in North and South Branches of Beaver Creek. These were long, warm, dusty trips in summer and cold trips in winter.

"In 1914 the Seminary graduated six more candidates than the number of calls that had been sent in. At the Synod meeting in 1914 the Pastor of Arcadia, so it had been said, without the consent of the Pastor of Whitehall asked the Mission Board to place a graduate from the Seminary in Galesville, since there were graduates available. The Mission Board refused. Some of the members of the board were acquainted with conditions in and around Galesville. (The Wisconsin Synod at that time was still a German speaking Church.) The Pastor of Arcadia threatened to ask for a graduate for Galesville on the floor of the Synod, if his request was refused. Lest this happen, the Board knowing better agreed to grant the request.

"The graduate informed the Pastor of Arcadia that he would be in Galesville and ready to be installed the first Sunday in October. He in turn was informed by the Pastor of Arcadia who to contact when he got to Galesville. When the young man arrived in Galesville he learned that no preparations had been made for a place for the new Pastor to hang his hat.

"When the young man got to the church on Sunday P. M. to be installed he was greeted by the Pastor of Whitehall. 'Brother I am glad that you are here, but I am sorry for you.' 'Why?' the young man asked. The answer was 'Galesville is no place for a Wisconsin Synod Pastor now.' The installation took place, before a 'handful' of people. The new Pastor was in Galesville, the beautiful prosperous village in 1914.

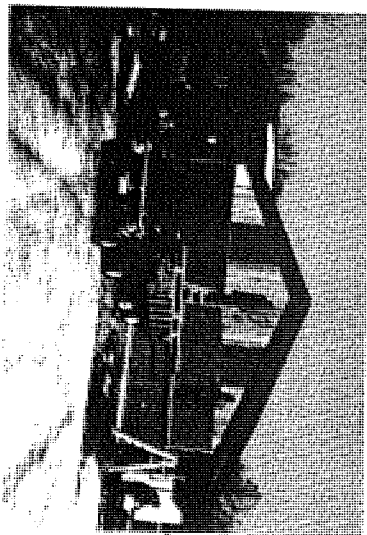
"In May, one of the members of the Mission Board came to Galesville and spent the night with the Pastor in his rented quarters. 'This is what we expected,' he said, after he visited with the Pastor.

"At the Synod meeting in 1915 the Pastor was informed by the Mission Board: 'You accept the first call that you get, Galesville will be served as it was before you got there. Things turned out as we had expected. We knew better, and should not have given in.'"

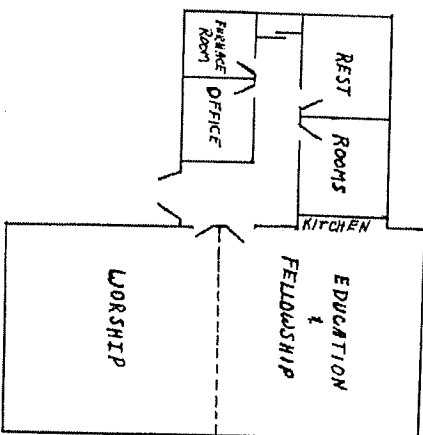
"I got a call soon after. . . . and did as I was told." "Times and language have changed since my days in Galesville. I wish you success and God's blessings for your effort in Galesville."

Pastor Eggert has since passed on to his eternal home with our Lord in heaven.



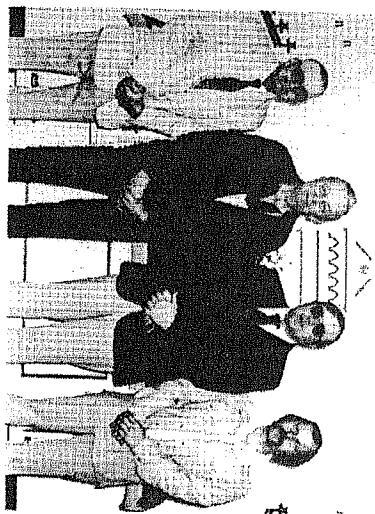
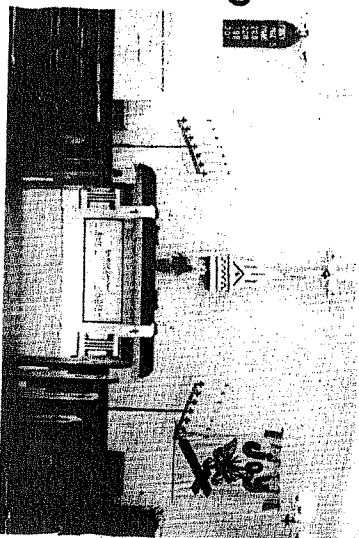


CONSTRUCTION

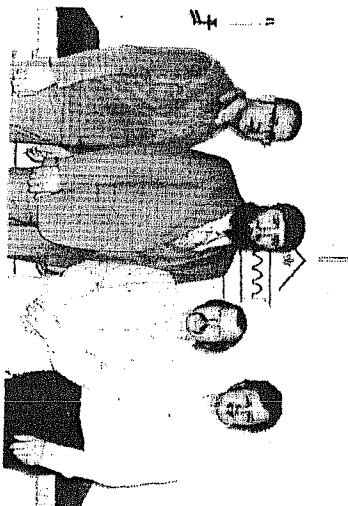


FLOOR PLANS

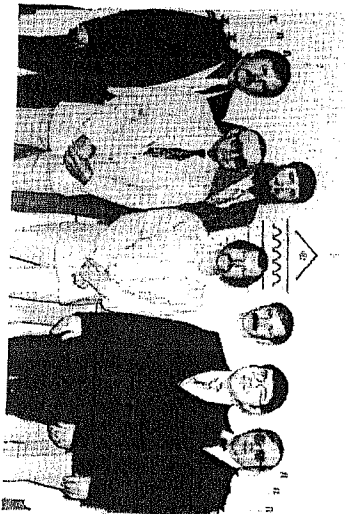
**COMPLETED
WORSHIP
AREA**



**LAND SEARCH
COMMITTEE:** Frank
Gille, Wally Gaeke,
Duane Bothe, Art
Gillmeister.
Unpictured: Ken Farley



**BUILDING
COMMITTEE:** Duane
Fruechte, Bob Scheil,
Art Gillmeister, Frank
Willber. Unpictured:
Ken Farley



**PRESENT CHURCH
COUNCIL:** (lower row)
Frank Gille, Art Gill-
meister, Pastor Swartz
(back row) Kermitt
Traska, Robert Scheil,
Jerry Moede, Duane
Bothe



Appendix 3 – Dedication Booklet 1

IMPORTANT DATES IN THE HISTORY OF BETHEL

1974

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Geake discuss the possibility of starting a church north of LaCrosse with Pastor James Mumm of Onalaska. The discussion lead to the seeking of other WELS people in the area to see if they were interested in starting a congregation. Sufficient interest was found to pursue the project.

1975

The discussions over the possibility of a church continued now among the WELS pastors of the area. In November it was brought to the attention of the LaCrosse Area Pastor's Study Club. Pastors James Mumm and Harold Hoepner were in charge of the project.

1976

A request for the Western Wisconsin District Mission Board's assistance was made early in the year.

May 12 - The General Board of Home Missions of the WELS approved exploratory services for the Holmen/Galesville area.

June 16 - A meeting of interested people in the Galesville area was held. Present were 18 souls including the following communicants: Mr. & Mrs. Edward Henseling, Mr. & Mrs. Duane Bothe, Mr. & Mrs. Ken Farley, Mr. & Mrs. Art Gilmeister, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Geake, and Mrs. Karen Schams.

July 11 - The first service was held in the Bank of Galesville at 8 P.M. with 27 people attending.

September 12 - The first morning service was conducted at 10:30 with 36 people attending.

October - A formal request was placed with the District Mission Board of WELS that Galesville be granted Mission Status, that is, the right to formally organize a congregation.

November 2 - The General Board of Home Missions of the WELS approved the request for Mission Status for Galesville.

December 19 - After several weeks of discussion over the suggestions for names for the congregation, the name of Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church was adopted.

1977

January 23 - The first annual voters' meeting was held. The constitution was approved, first officers were elected, and the congregation began with 33 communicants and 55 souls.

February 20 - At a special voters' meeting, the members of Bethel voted to request permission to search for land and to call a pastor or vicar to serve Holmen and Galesville. The Mission Board granted the request to call a pastor.

May 15 - At a special voters' meeting, it was decided to call a Pastoral candidate from the Seminary's Graduating class.

May 17 - Candidate Donald Swartz was assigned to serve Bethel and Holmen.

June 24 - Incorporation papers were filed with the State of Wisconsin.

June 26 - The first Annual Church Picnic was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilber.

July 22 - Members of Bethel move Pastor Swartz's possessions from Kanosh to Galesville.

July 31 - Pastor Swartz ordained and installed as the first resident pastor of Bethel in a special service held at St. Paul's in Onalaska.

August 10 - Accepted as a member congregation of the WELS by Synod Convention.

October 16 - Congregation votes to apply for membership in Luther High School Federation.

November - Request for land search permission was again submitted. Mission Board granted request.

December 4 - A land search committee of Chairman Duane Bothe, Art Gilmeister, Frank Gilje, Ken Farley, Walter Geake and Pastor Swartz was established to seek out possible building sites that could be purchased.

1978

January 1 - The year begins with 57 souls and 35 communicants.

January 20 - Land Search Committee meets with Pastor N. Berg (GBHM), Pastor A.D. Laper (DMB), and Frank Italiano (DMB) to view and discuss 3 possible land sites.

January 29 - Congregation votes to submit offer on piece of property within City of Galesville limits.

February 1 - Luther High School Conference of Delegates votes to accept Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church as a member of the Federation.

February 19 - Duane Bothe and Kermit Traska are chosen Bethel's Delegates for the Conference of Delegates.

March 5 - Congregation is notified that our offer for property has been rejected by owners.

March 12 - Voters decide to make offer on an alternate site.

March 21 - Bid submitted on old grade school site in Galesville.

April 10 - Bids opened.

April 20 - Official notice of rejection of offer to purchase old grade school site.

April 23 - At special voters meeting, decision to look outside city limits for land is made.

May 21 - The first confirmation at Bethel is held. Larry Kris Eibe is confirmed in the service.

June 25 - Second Annual Church Picnic held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilber.

December 4 - Land Search Committee meets with Pastors Berg, Zwieg, and Laper to view property outside the city limits for possible church site.

December 24 - Following the recommendation of the GBHM, the congregation votes to make an offer on land in the Smith subdivision.

1979

January 1 - The year begins with 69 souls and 40 communicants.

January - The congregation begins dealing for property with Mr. and Mrs. Vilas Smith through their agent Mrs. Beverly Sevold.

May 6 - As it appears that Bethel will purchase land in the Smith Subdivision, planning authority for a church building is requested. Conditional planning authority is received.

May 20 - Second youth confirmed in Bethel was Scott Eibe.

June 10 - Third Annual Church picnic held at Perot State Park.

June 30 - Building committee meets with Pastor Berg, Zwieg and Fritz to discuss type of building to put up.

July 8 - Building committee was appointed. Chairman Art Gilmeister, Duane Fruaehte, Frank Wilber, Ken Farley and Pastor Swartz.

August 21 - Closed on purchase of land in Smith subdivision.

August 22 - Bethel's Building Committee meets with LaCrosse Area architects to choose architect for our building project.

September 2 - Congregation votes to accept Mr. Jon Moizahn of Harold Moizahn & Associates as architect for the project.

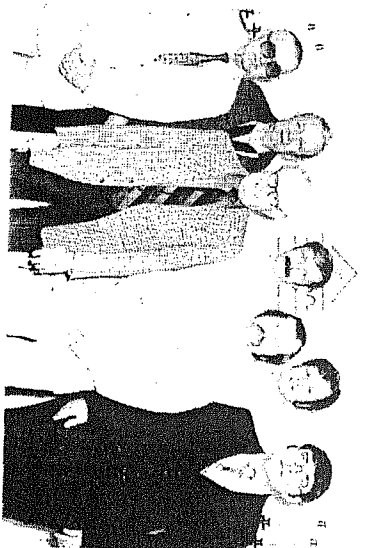
September 27 - GBHM accepts selection of Mr. Moltzahn for our architect.
 November 19 - Congregation approves preliminary plans to submit to Synod.
 December 9 - Notification of rejection of building plans brought to voters attention. Voters decide to abandon first set of preliminary plans.
 December 13 - GBHM suggests that we adopt Synod's prototype unit for our building.

1980

January 1 - The year begins with 77 souls and 41 communicants.
 January 14 - Revised preliminary plans for Worship/Education/Fellowship unit submitted to Synod.
 February 8 - Informed by WELS architectural committee that plans must be more detailed, preliminary plans are again prepared and sent.
 March 18 - Architectural committee of WELS recommends that final working drawings be made for W/E/F unit with a few minor changes.
 March 25 - Board of Trustees of WELS approves funding of W/E/F unit.
 April 21 - Architectural committee of WELS gives final approval to have working drawings submitted.
 May 5 - GBHM gives final approval to have working drawing submitted.
 May 8 - Board of Trustees of WELS gives final approval to have working drawing submitted.
 June 15 - Working drawings of W/E/F unit submitted by congregation.
 July 18 - Revised working drawings of W/E/F unit submitted by congregation.
 July 20 - Voters decide to hire a general contractor for project.
 July 24 - Board of Trustees of WELS authorize the working drawings and inform Bethel that we may proceed with securing a contractor.
 August 17 - In a special Voters Meeting, congregation authorizes Building Committee to secure a Contractor for building.
 August 17 - Building Committee opens bids by various contractors and selected Van Vleet Construction to erect our building at a cost of \$71,567,00.
 August 21 - Contract with Van Vleet Construction signed and submitted.
 August 31 - Groundbreaking was held after Sunday Morning worship service.
 September 15 - Church council decides to try to get free pews from St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Rocky Road, Colorado. Mr. Duane Bothe and Mr. Art Gillmeister drive to Colorado to bring back pews and baptismal font.
 September 20 - Severe rainstorm causes flooding which delays construction of building.
 October 15 & 18 - Due to unforeseen difficulties, change of order forces cost of construction by Van Vleet to raise to \$75,317,00.

1981

January 1 - The year begins with 83 souls and 45 communicants.
 January 18 - At the Annual Voters Meeting it was decided to dedicate the new building on June 14, 1981. A committee was appointed of Kermit Traska, chairman; Ken Farley and Duane Bothe. New Luther High delegate is Jim Finster and Stewardship Committee is Allan Stuhr, Kermit Traska and Jerry Moede.
 March 4 - Due to material delivery delays, first worship service is not held in the new facility until Ash Wednesday.
 March 8 - First baptism is held in the new building - Rebecca Ann Rastall.
 May 17 - First confirmation held in new building - Christopher Gille.
 June 14 - In a 2:30 special service the new building is dedicated by the members of Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church. The speaker is the Rev. Harold Hoepfner.



PAST CHURCH COUNCIL: (lower row) Frank Gille, Ed Henseling, Art Gillmeister, Pastor Swartz (back row) Wally Geske, Jerry Moede, Frank Wilber, Not pictured: Ken Farley

ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF BETHEL ON JANUARY 23, 1977

- *Mrs. Diane Amann
- *Duane & Maxine Bothe & Family
- *Mrs. Gretchen Byers
- Clayton Dale
- *Mrs. Bonnie Erbe & Family
- *Ken & LouAnne Farley & Family
- *Duane & Doris Fruelche
- *Mrs. Theresa Furlan
- *Walter & Ann Geske
- *David Geske
- *Richard Geske
- *Frank & Ruth Gille & Family
- Caroline Gille (Greenwood)
- *Paul Gille
- *Arthur & Karen Gillmeister & Family
- *Edward & Janet Henseling
- *John & Edith Loging & Family
- *Jerome & Korrin Moede & Family
- *Douglas & Cindy Pierce & Family
- *Mrs. Karen Schams & Family
- *Mrs. Judith Wamsley & Family
- *Frank & Donna Wilber & Family

***STILL PRESENT MEMBERS**

OTHER MEMBERS AND DATES ACCEPTED

- Robert Nelson - April 24, 1977
- Todd Pralle - August 7, 1977
- *Donald & Karen Swartz & Family - August 7, 1977
- *Kermit & Beth Traska & Family - August 7, 1977
- Mrs. Beverly Walanski & Family - August 7, 1977
- Leonard & Betty Pieper - October 6, 1977
- †Larry Erbe - May 21, 1978
- †*Rick & Debra Scholl - April 23, 1978
- *Allan & Patricia Stuhr & Family - April 23, 1978
- †*Mrs. Kay Daily & Family - August 8, 1979
- *Robert & Lynda Scheil & Family - October 7, 1979
- *Russel & Darlene Johnson & Family - January 28, 1979
- *Richard & Lori Rastall & Family - April 27, 1980
- †*Robin Stuhr - May 4, 1980
- †*Gerald & Donna Dahl & Family - October 14, 1980
- †*Mrs. Geneva Curran & Family - October 14, 1980
- *Jim Finster - January 18, 1981
- †*Christopher Gille - May 17, 1981
- * STILL PRESENT MEMBERS
- † CONFIRMED AT BETHEL

**BABIES BAPTIZED
IN BETHEL**

- Tabitha Gillmeister 1/29/76
- Kristine Swartz 8/14/77
- Benjamin Logging 10/9/77
- Jamie Pieper 2/28/78
- Heidi Pierce 8/6/78
- Christopher Traska 8/13/78
- Timothy Swartz 12/17/78
- Erin Moede 2/27/79
- Robert Farley 11/17/79
- Lisa Schams 1/26/80
- Curtis Wilber 7/20/80
- Rebecca Rastall 3/8/81

**CHURCH COUNCIL
AND
DATES SERVED**

- Walter Geske 1/77 to 1/78
- Jerome Moede 1/77 to Present
- Ken Farley 1/77 to 1/80
- Art Gillmeister 1/77 to Present
- Ed Henseling 1/77 to 1/80
- Frank Wilber 1/77 to 1/81
- Duane Botha 1/78 to Present
- Robert Scheil 1/80 to Present
- Frank Gille 1/80 to Present
- Kermit Traska 1/81 to Present

Building for Christ

- . . . a house for worship
- . . . a people for praise
- . . . a kingdom forevermore

*Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church
Galesville, Wisconsin
Dedication of Sanctuary Addition
September 21, 2003*

Welcome to Bethel

Thank you for joining us on this special day! If there is anything we can do to make your time with us more enjoyable, please do not hesitate to ask. Member greeters are wearing name tags and will be happy to assist you.

For a map of the building, please turn the page of this booklet. Restrooms are located in the main hallway between the church and classroom area. A baby changing table is in the larger ladies' bathroom. The noon meal will be served from the kitchen with tables in the fellowship area, classrooms and entryways. The juggling performance will take place in the church from 1:00-1:30 p.m. The worship service begins at 2:00 p.m. in the church. After worship, refreshments will be served in the fellowship area. Everyone is invited to leave a handprint on the banner, also located in the fellowship area. As our gift to you, please take a "prayer rock" from the basket in the main entryway. Children will receive a small bottle of bubbles.

Schedule of Events for September 21, 2003

10:30 a.m.	Morning Worship
12:00 noon	Luncheon
1:00 p.m.	Juggling Performance by Paul Scott
2:00 p.m.	Festival Worship
3:00 p.m.	Reception and Tours

Building for Christ

The Building Committee of Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church adopted the theme "Building for Christ" to keep the focus of their labors on the greater purpose of advancing God's Kingdom. The house for worship is now constructed, but the work of building has only begun. This structure will serve as a place to hear and study God's Word and receive the sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Worshipers will raise their hearts in prayer and praise, bow their heads in petition and penitance, and leave refreshed and built up in their personal faith. Members share the love of God that they have experienced here, bringing others to the knowledge of the world's only Savior, Jesus. This spreading of God's Word results in a growing number of those who will share the eternal joys of heaven. The house we build on earth will by God's grace also build his kingdom of believers.

Pastor's Message -- Give Thanks to the LORD

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.
Psalm 118:1

These words are not only the closing of a familiar table prayer, they are a fitting theme for this dedication day and for our building project. Today is a special day for giving thanks to the LORD.

To give thanks means to remember, or to not forget that all our blessings come from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth. I realize as soon as one starts to thank people, someone is always left out. At the risk of that, let us give thanks. Let us remember the great blessings that God has showered on us, especially this day.

Give thanks above all for God's forgiveness and his love, which are and have been at the heart and center of this building project from the start. The word evangelical, the middle name of our church, Bethel Evangelical Lutheran, means that we are centered on God's love. On a following page in this booklet, you will see how the facility itself and especially the sanctuary furnishings proclaim this message of God's forgiveness. Take some time to read that while seated in the sanctuary and see how this facility shouts out, "Give thanks to the LORD for his forgiveness and love."

Give thanks to the LORD for the countless people whom the LORD used to bring this building to completion. There are lists elsewhere in this booklet that try to give thanks to the LORD for every

single person who has helped out in one way or another. Sincere apologies if anyone was missed.

Give thanks for Bethel members and members of other WELS congregations who gave their thankofferings to the LORD.

Give thanks to *Builders For Christ*, an organization of volunteers that traveled here from as far away as Alaska, Florida, Wyoming, Michigan and all parts of Wisconsin to donate their time, labor, expertise and Christian example to make this project a reality.

Give thanks for congregation members who set a *Builders For Christ* record for the number of volunteer hours by a congregation. The Lord used layoffs, shift work, vacation and days off to enable congregational volunteers to help out.

Give thanks for the numerous women who served lunches, breaks, brought snacks, organized volunteers, headed up pew-stripping and the like. You can't build on an empty stomach. These ladies made sure there were no empty stomachs on this project. In fact, some stomachs have seen growth under the LORD's guidance. Give thanks to the LORD for he is good.

Give thanks for the many members who served on the Building Committee. The committee began as a long-range planning committee under the guidance of Rick Geske. This group determined the need for

a facility and turned the reins over to a Building Committee for specific planning headed by Dave Evenson. These members have put in literally thousands of hours in meetings, phone calls, paperwork and communication to see this project through to completion.

Once planning began, timetables for architectural design, securing permits, working with *Builders For Christ*, organizing volunteers and the like have been under tight time constraints. Thank the LORD that he moved these men and women to see things through to the end.

Thank the LORD for giving us the opportunity to build within this time frame and achieve our goals to his glory.

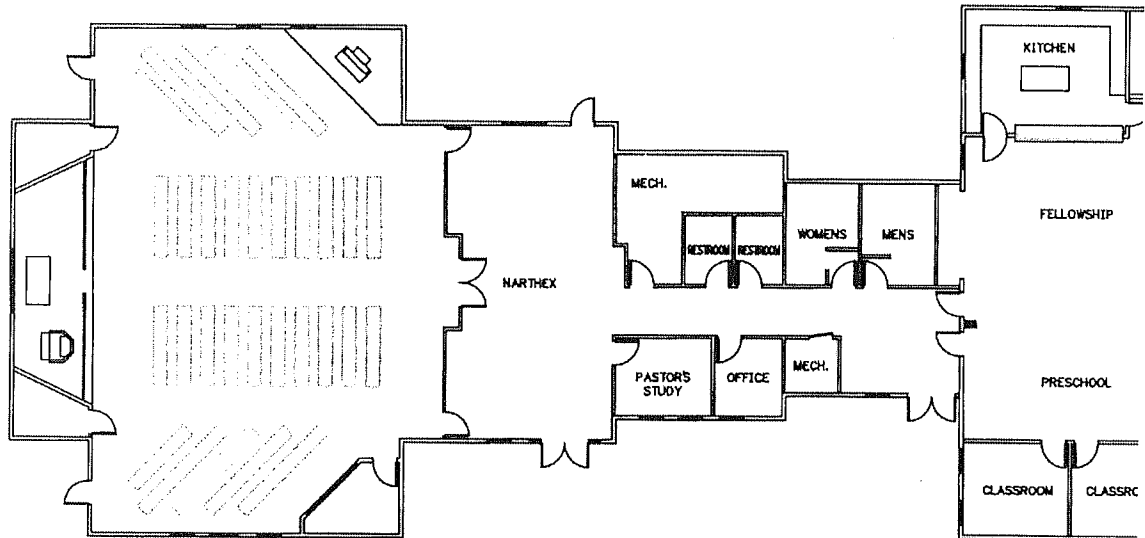
Give thanks for the advisors that have helped us with this project. Members of the Church Extension Fund have been valuable assets in financing and ministry planning. Members of the District Mission Board have been helpful sounding boards with much experience behind them. Area congregations gave advice based on recent building projects. Give thanks to the LORD for these gifts.

What a day this is for giving thanks! What a day to remember the LORD's goodness. This list of thanks could go on forever, for that is how long the LORD's love for us lasts in Jesus Christ. Give thanks to the LORD for he is good; his love endures forever.

Giving thanks in the name of Christ,

Pastor Nathan Strutz

Building a House of Worship



Symbols in the Church -- God's Visible Forgiveness

Our new sanctuary is full of rich art and symbolism to help us focus on the central message of the Bible: God's forgiveness for our sins. Please take a moment to read the following paragraphs to better appreciate this symbolism. It would be most helpful to face the front of the worship area as you read this information.

Front and center in our sanctuary is the **cross**, where Jesus gave his life to win our forgiveness. The cross is both the focal point and uniting factor of our faith, as is shown in the sanctuary design. The cross is white to symbolize the holy life of Jesus, holiness he gave to us free of charge.

Surrounding the cross is the **window** of forgiveness. While the window is to be seen as a unit, it is divided into six parts. Each part has a symbol to represent a different chief part of Martin Luther's Catechism, which has been used in our church for hundreds of years to instruct young and old on the blessings of God's forgiveness.

Beginning in the upper right as you face the window from the inside, is a window with two tablets

bearing Roman numerals. This represents the **Ten Commandments**. The Ten Commandments show us our sins and our need for the forgiveness that Jesus won on the cross.

Moving to the left, above the cross beam of the cross, are three intersecting circles. This is a symbol for the Holy Trinity. It represents the **Apostles' Creed**, which teaches us how the Father, Son and Holy Spirit equally worked together to win forgiveness and apply this forgiveness to us.

In the lower right window is a shell with three drops of water. This signifies **Baptism**, in which the Holy Spirit applies the perfect life of Jesus and his forgiveness to each individual. The next window bears a symbol for the **Lord's Supper**. In the bread and wine shared by those who have publicly confessed a unity of faith with us, the most personalized assurance of God's forgiveness is received. This is given us through the real body and blood of Christ, united in, with and under the bread and wine in a miraculous way.

(continued on next page)

Symbols in the Church -- God's Visible Forgiveness

To the left of the cross is a window with two keys. This reminds us of the **Ministry of the Keys and Confession**. Christ has given to every believer the power and right to proclaim forgiveness to repentant sinners. Thus, every Christian holds the keys to forgiveness and the keys to open heaven itself.

The final window has a censer and incense. This represents the **Lord's Prayer**. The Bible pictures all our prayers as rising to heaven like incense, creating a sweet smell in the nostrils of the Lord. The Lord's Prayer is special, not only because Jesus himself taught us the very words, but also because it has as its central petition, "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." God's forgiveness is at the center of this prayer, as it is at the center of our church and the center of our lives as Christians.

Surrounding the window are **stones**. The stones represent each Christian as an important piece in the Lord's ministry through Bethel. 1 Peter 2:5 says, "You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." The stones are Christians, held together by the mortar of God's forgiveness, without which we would surely be separated and scattered.

In the center of the main aisle stands the **baptismal font**. Here children and adults will be baptized. The font has eight sides, recalling the eight people in Noah's ark. Noah's family was saved by water, as we are saved by water tied to the Word of God in baptism (1 Peter 3:18-21). The font is covered with stone as is the front of the sanctuary. For many of us, in baptism God made us Christians, applying his forgiveness to the individual and making us living stones in the body of Christ. The font measures three feet in diameter, one foot for each the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is the name of the Triune God in which we are baptized. For this service the font has been placed at the front of the sanctuary for the purpose of the opening procession and prayers. Normally the font will stand at the entrance to the sanctuary, reminding all who enter how they entered God's invisible Church of all believers.

Mounting the single step into the chancel area there is a **rail**. The rail serves to mark this area as the most holy place in our sanctuary. This symbolism carries over from the Old Testament holy of holies in the Tabernacle and Temple of Solomon. In a regular service, even the pastor will not mount this step until after the confession and absolution of sins. The rail also allows people to kneel while receiving the Lord's body and blood in the Lord's Supper. This position of kneeling for those who are able signifies humility in the presence of the Lord.

Centered in the chancel area is the **altar**. The symbolism of the altar is three-fold. First, the altar serves as the visible symbol of God's presence, much like the Ark of the Covenant in the Old Testament. For this reason, the pastor will face the altar while saying prayers to God and will face the people when speaking for God. Secondly, the altar holds the elements for the Lord's Supper. The altar is a visible place where the true body and blood of Christ are placed. Thirdly, the altar retains the symbolism of the altar of sacrifice in the Old Testament. Here we place our monetary sacrifices to be used in the Lord's service.

To the left is the **pulpit**. While all of the worship service is a proclamation of the Word of God, the pulpit is a special place where God's Word is read and preached. What comes from the pulpit is the Word of God and nothing but the Word of God. Sermons preached from the pulpit are not the words of men, but truly the Word of God.

We pray that this tour of our sanctuary has been beneficial. We pray the Lord has led you to a deeper understanding of his forgiveness. We pray you will come again and ponder God's forgiveness proclaimed here.

As you exit the sanctuary, please continue your self-guided tour by viewing the entryway, office and copy room. Head past the restrooms on the left and into the original building. This space has been converted into a fellowship hall, preschool room and classrooms. The kitchen addition completes the tour and offers refreshments. Member greeters are wearing name tags and are available to answer questions.

Builders for Christ is a remarkable organization of Lutheran men and women, mostly retired, who volunteer their time and skills. They travel the United States and beyond to construct buildings to the glory of God. It was a privilege and joy to host the Builders for Christ in Galesville. Some stayed a few days, some a few weeks, and others for the duration of the project. Words fail to express our gratitude for the labor, friendship and Christian support they have offered during this project. To God be the glory!

Project Managers

James Doc Muskegon, WI
Gerald Schulte La Valle, WI

Builders for Christ

Carl and Sue Burgeson Sitka, AK
Larry Cisler Cheyenne, WY
Tom Dahms Muskegon, WI
Albert Demaske Mauston, WI
Paul and Jan Dettman Watertown, WI
Charles Eddy Lannon, WI
Robert and Marlene Ewer Olivia, MN
Lloyd and Joyce Gatzke West Bend, WI
Richard Hamrick Franklin, WI
Murten and Shirley Hess Hartford, WI
Robert and Charlotte Jacob Port Edwards, WI
Dennis and Janice Krueger Wilmar, MN
Fred Kuehl Litchfield, MN
Gary Langbecker Janesville, WI
Bernard Markham Rochester, MN
Carl and Phyllis Nelson Appleton, WI
Erlyn Nuessmeier Hudson, WI
Douglas and Claire Pagel St. Germain, WI
Ralph Pleuss Manitowoc, WI
Elwyn Sather Janesville, WI
William and Phyllis Schmidt Watertown, WI
Doris Schulte La Valle, WI
Neil Smith Arlington, WI
Roger Smith Little Chute, WI
Norman Stellick Rhinelander, WI
Allan Steljes New Ulm, MN
Warren Stuebs Chippewa Falls, WI
Raymond Vogt Muskego, WI
John and Lynn Wempner Leesburg, FL
Delbert Wetzol Olivia, MN
Kenneth Wolff Fond du Lac, WI

Working alongside the Builders for Christ were many friends from area WELS congregations and elsewhere. Thank you to all who assisted.

Friends of Bethel

Ervin Abraham Onalaska, WI
Bill Bader Onalaska, WI
Seth Bader Onalaska, WI
Lee Burge La Crosse, WI
Phil Bowdish Warrens, WI
Fred Craig Holmen, WI
Dave Friell West Salem, WI
Steve and Theresa Furlan Puyallup, WA
Ryan Holper Onalaska, WI
Gayle Johnson Winona, MN
LaVerne and Elaine Johnson Winona, MN
Dennis and Darlene Kempf Mosinee, WI
Al Knorr La Crosse, WI
Randy Manske West Salem, WI
Clive McBain West Salem, WI
Gary Miller West Salem, WI
Roland Ostrem West Salem, WI
Willard Otto La Crosse, WI
Dick Phillips Hayward, WI
Duane Schlender Holmen, WI
Steve Staude Onalaska, WI
William Strutz Racine, WI
Dale Wierschke Green Bay, WI

Providing meals for a crew of hungry workers is a job in itself. Multiplied by five days a week and ten weeks, the task could be daunting. Ladies from a dozen WELS churches rose to the challenge.

Meal Servers

Laurali Gilbertson La Crosse, WI
Vonnice Gilster West Salem, WI
Nancy Herbers Onalaska, WI
Pat Hoppe Rollingstone, MN
LaVerne and Elaine Johnson Winona, MN
Alethea Keller Cochrane, WI
Ardelle Lemar La Crosse, WI
Mary Lemke La Crescent, MN
Marilynne Maciejczak Fairchild, WI
Doris Mueller Onalaska, WI
Sharon Radcliffe Burr Oak, WI
Kathy Rock Onalaska, WI
Jane Strutz Racine, WI

Building a People of Praise

The members of Bethel have spent countless hours praying, planning and preparing to make this day a reality. Every member has contributed in some way to the building of this new sanctuary, by offering their gifts of time, money and ability. Listed below are just some of those who have volunteered their efforts.

Building Committee**Chairman**

Dave Evenson

Furniture and Finishings

Ruth Gille

Vic Samb

Frank Wilber

Construction and Materials

Nick Hofland

John Loging

Jeff McNamer

Finance and Promotion

Annie Geske

Jim Howell

Marty Knudsen

Fred Lintelmann

Tim Smeija

Builders for Christ/Church***Extension Fund Coordinators***

Dave Evenson

Rick Geske

Pastor Nathan Strutz

Volunteer Coordinators

Kristy Armstrong

Fred Lintelmann

Kris McNamer

Housing Providers

Mike and Mary Gilbert

Jim and Judy Howell

Russel and Darlene Johnson

Pastor Nathan and Elizabeth Strutz

Volunteer Builders

Andrew Armstrong

Rollin Barkeim

Gary Bender

Maxine Bothe

Marion Erickson

Andy Evenson

Christina Evenson

Dave and Kay Evenson

Matt Evenson

Duane and Doris Fruechte

Anna Geske

Rick Geske

Mike and Mary Gilbert

Ruth Gille

Gary Hanson

Cody Harms

Allison Hofland

Ben Hofland

Nick and Deb Hofland

Sam Hofland

Jim and Judy Howell

Russel and Darlene Johnson

Paul Koch

Anita Lenke

Fred Lintelmann

Ben Loging

John and Edith Loging

Pearl Loging

Jeff McNamer

Tyler and Jill Peil

Larry Robinson

Vic and Alice Samb

Dustin Smeija

Katrina Smeija

Tim and Judy+ Smeija

Nathan and Elizabeth Strutz

Frank and Donna Wilber

Meal Planning Committee

Annie Geske

Ruth Gille

Judy Howell

Meal Servers

Deb Barkeim

Kay Evenson

Annie Geske

Mary Gilbert

Ruth Gille

Geraldyn Harms

Deb Hofland

Darlene Johnson

Lisa Kutil

Anita Lenke

Edith Loging

Pearl Loging

Tammy Maliszewski

Dayna Robinson

Debbie Scholl

Katrina Smeija

Elizabeth Strutz

Curt Wilber

Donna Wilber

Dedication Planning

Deb Barkeim

Mary Gilbert

Deb Hofland

Janice Knudsen

Dayna Robinson

Elizabeth Strutz

Dedication Decorations

Kristy Armstrong

Judy Howell

Elizabeth Strutz

Many Special Thanks

Our thanks extend to many individuals and organizations in the WELS who offered support and advice throughout our planning stages. Individuals and businesses in our community provided valuable services during the construction process, often donating a portion of the labor or expense. Finally, we thank those who helped to make this day a memorable event.

WELS Mission Board		Architect	
District Chairman		Kratt Associates	La Crosse, WI
Pastor Keith Free	Plover, WI	Dave Yellick	
Western Wisconsin District		Contractors and Suppliers	
Fred Camacho	Wis. Rapids, WI	Bohn Drywall	Blair, WI
Steve Kalscheuer	DeForest, WI	Cargill Heating	La Crosse, WI
Pastor Nate Radtke	Hayward, WI	Cornerstone Roofing	Mequon, WI
John Tappe	Weston, WI	Eggen Heating and Plumbing	Holmen, WI
Pastor Steve Wilkens	Fort Atkinson, WI	Galesville Home Center	Galesville, WI
Mission Counselor		Orville Gooden Excavating	McLrose, WI
Pastor Wayne Schulz	Cottage Grove, WI	Heram Custom Woodworking	Onalaska, WI
Western Wis. District President		Highline Mill Work	Kaukauna, WI
Pastor Herbert Prah	Eau Claire, WI	Independence Lumber	Independence, WI
Financing		Interior Design (flooring)	Holmen, WI
WELS Church Extension Fund	Milwaukee, WI	Klich Electric	La Crosse, WI
Jared Justman		Jeff McNamer (masonry)	Ettrick, WI
Patti Behmke		Painter's Plus	Holmen, WI
Volunteer Support		Pond Professionals (font bowl)	Galesville, WI
WELS Kingdom Workers	Milwaukee, WI	Reedy Concrete Construction	Galesville, WI
Dave Mueller		Vic Samb (kitchen cabinets)	Holmen, WI
Meal Contributors		Vanderhoff Studios (glass)	Melrose, WI
Geske Farms	Galesville, WI	Printing	
Good Shepherd Lutheran	Holmen, WI	Miller Quik Print	Onalaska, WI
Hundred Pines Farm	Taylor, WI	Dedication Meal	
St. John's Ladies Aid	Barre Mills, WI	Bethel Youth Group	Galesville, WI
Thrivent Financial/Lutherans	La Crosse Co., WI	Craig's Meats and Catering	Mindoro, WI
Quik Stop	Holmen, WI	Good Shepherd Lutheran	Holmen, WI
		St. Paul Lutheran	Onalaska, WI
		Entertainer	
		Rev. Paul Scott Steinberg	Mauston, WI
		Worship Service Organist	
		Paul Molling	Dakota, MN

History of Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church

Discussions about starting a Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod (WELS) church in Galesville began nearly three decades ago. After two years of preliminary talks, approval from the synod Board for Home Missions was granted in 1976.

A meeting of interested people in the community brought 18 together that summer. The first worship service was held in the Bank of Galesville basement on the evening of July 11, 1976. Twenty-seven attended. Thus a new congregation was formed in Galesville as a daughter of St. Paul's, Onalaska. In fall of the same year, the worship time was moved to Sunday mornings. After weeks of discussion, the name "Bethel," meaning "house of God," was officially adopted.

The next year Bethel's first pastor was assigned from the graduating class of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon. Donald Swartz was ordained and installed on July 31, 1977. He would serve both the church in Galesville and Good Shepherd, Holmen for seven years. Pastor Swartz saw the fledgling congregation through its first building project.

Several land sites were considered -- and rejected -- before members voted to purchase property at the current location in 1979. Ground for the original structure was broken on August 31, 1980. Despite construction delays due to fall flooding, the first service in the Worship/Education/Fellowship facility was held the next spring on Ash Wednesday. The building was

dedicated to the Lord's work on June 14, 1981.

The ministry at Bethel expanded to include Little Lamb Preschool in the fall of 1994. Mrs. Lauri Lettner was the first teacher. The preschool has been blessed to add classes, currently operating three sessions for children aged three to five years old. Mrs. Marion Erickson of Winona is in her fifth year of leading the flock of little lambs.

Church members, filled with the desire to spread God's Word, began seeking opportunities in the community of Arcadia. Summer 2001 brought a *Forward in Christ* team consisting of three teacher-training students from Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn., and one pastoral student from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. These young people met with residents to generate interest in starting a Bible-based Lutheran church.

Bible study first met at the Electric Utility building on Arcadia's Main Street on July 18, 2001. Worship services began on Saturday evenings just before Christmas. A year and a half later, worship services were offered in Arcadia on Sunday mornings.

New and expanding ministry needs called for a staffing change. On January 27, 2002, members of Bethel and Good Shepherd dissolved the dual parish arrangement that had served both congregations well for more than 25 years. Pastor Nathan Strutz accepted the call to be the first

full-time minister of Bethel in Galesville and Arcadia. He continues to serve Bethel today.

Bethel's Long Range Planning Committee recognized the need for facility expansion. A Building Committee was established in fall of 2000 to investigate the options. Upon their recommendation offered a year later, the congregation decided to pursue a building project. Plans were approved by members and submitted to the state of Wisconsin by the end of June, 2002. Construction was to begin in one year. Bethel applied for assistance from *Builders for Christ* and for financing through the Church Extension Fund.

By God's grace, members responded with generous gifts. In just two and a half years, contributions to the Building Fund exceeded the goal of \$70,000 needed for downpayment. To control costs, much of the labor was to be volunteer. Members were called upon to give time and abilities in addition to the financial gifts already given. They answered with eager and willing service.

Members and guests praised God for his grace at the Ground-breaking April 6, 2003. Excavation began April 21. With the help of *Builders for Christ*, members, and volunteers from several WELS churches, construction was completed in August.

Today, September 21, 2003, we dedicate this building to God's glory and rededicate ourselves for service in his kingdom.

On the Lord's Service at Bethel

Bethel has been blessed by the service of six pastors in its history. We thank God for them and for the faithful teaching and preaching of his Word.

Pastors

1977-1984
Donald Swartz

1984-1989
Joel Suckow

1989-1995
Andrew Bauer

1995-1997
Dan Schoeffel

1997 - present
Nathan W. Strutz

With the financial support of several area WELS congregations, Bethel applied for the assistance of a vicar. This third-year Seminary student will focus his efforts on the outreach work being done in Arcadia. He was assigned the Call on May 20, installed on August 24, and will remain at Bethel for the school year.

Vicar

2003-2004
Tyler Peil

Bethel Little Lamb Preschool has been served by four teachers. Children of the congregation and the community have sat with these dedicated women at the feet of Jesus, learning to know and love him.

Preschool Teachers

1994-1995
Lauri Lettner

1995-1996
Carla Burton

1997-1999
Julie Schossow

1999-present
Marion Erickson

Thank you for joining us today. It is a privilege to share our joy with you on this special occasion.

Please visit us again. We would be honored to serve you with Sunday school for children and adults at 9:00 a.m., Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m., or Bible study throughout the week. For more information, please call Pastor Strutz at 582-9998.

If you are interested in a Christian preschool for your child age three to five years, please call the church office at 582-4329.

Bethel -- The House of God

Jacob . . . thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven." Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. He called that place Bethel. Genesis 28:16-19

As we look at this gift of God, our new facility, we will see that there are many imperfections. I like to think of them as reflections of the imperfections (sins) that are all of us. We do not go out and purposely try to be imperfect, but because of our human nature we are that way. On our own it can never be any different. Without Christ this would be all that we see in this facility and in ourselves.

But as we look at this facility, we cannot help but see the beauty of God's gift to us. This, too, is a reflection of us. Not as the sinful beings we are, but rather as the redeemed children of God he declared us to be. Christ accomplished this by taking our imperfections onto his perfect self. In the wood, the stone, the carpet and the glass we see Christ's beauty. Even more so, we see it in our hearts as we thank God for the blessings of health and time that he gave us to construct this building.

We look around and see our fellow believers who through their sweat, their prayers and their generosity have lived their faith so that this place should be a reality. We look back at the fellowship and friendships that we have experienced, perhaps some of the

richest blessings received from this project. We also remember back over the last 30 years our friends and loved ones who loved the Lord and this congregation enough to commit their lives to the growth of this congregation. Many of these have gone on to their heavenly home never seeing the fruits of their labor.

Now we look forward to the challenge of filling this house of God and bringing untold numbers of new believers to faith using this tool, this gift of God. For this is only a tool. By itself this building can never save a soul for eternity, but by the grace of God it will be a place where we can truly say, "The Lord is in this place; this is the gate of heaven."

*Building Committee Chairman
Dave Evenson*

Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church Mission Statement

Come and see, go and tell. As men, women and children united by a common confession of faith based on the Holy Scriptures, we, the members of Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, exist to glorify God. We regularly gather to study the Word of God in the Bible. Encouraged by the promise of redemption and filled with God's grace, we go forth in our daily lives using the talents God has given us to spread his Word to our community and our world.

Building For Christ

*. . . a house for worship
. . . a people for praise
. . . a kingdom forevermore*



*Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church
Arcadia, Wisconsin*

Statue
Dedication

March 23

Dedication of
God's House

April 27

Appreciation
Concert

April 30

Community
Open House

May 4

In the year of our Lord 2008

Welcome to Bethel

Thank you for joining us on this very special day. If there is anything we can do to make your time with us more enjoyable, please ask—member-greeters are wearing name tags and will be happy to assist you.

The dedication worship service will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the worship area; a separate worship folder is provided. Refreshments will be served following the service in the fellowship hall.

We've placed disposable cameras at most of the dinner tables. Please take pictures of your dining companions, then leave the camera on the table.

Please sign our guest-register in the narthex; it is the matting for a picture frame we'll be hanging later. Also, token gifts have been set aside for you, please be sure to take one.

Thank you for joining us as we celebrate the completion of this beautiful building.

Schedule of Events

Dedication Day – Sunday, April 27

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service
 10:00 a.m. Bible Class & Sunday School
 Noon Luncheon
 12:30-1:30 Children's Activities
 2:00 p.m. Dedication Service
 3:00 p.m. Reception

Appreciation Concert – Wed., April 30

6:00 p.m. Light Refreshments
 6:30 p.m. Concert by Chris Dreisbach
 from King of Kings,
 New Orleans, LA

Community Open House – Sunday, May 4

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service
 10:30 a.m. Bible Class & Sunday School
 1:00-3:00 p.m. Tours and light refreshments

Building for Christ

The Building Committee of Bethel-Arcadia adopted the theme "*Building for Christ*" to keep the focus of our labors on the greater purpose of advancing God's Kingdom. The house of worship is constructed, but the work of building has only begun. This structure will serve as a place to hear and study God's Word and receive the sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Worshipers will raise their hearts in prayer and praise, bow their heads in petition and penitence, and leave refreshed and built up in their personal faith. Members share the love of God, and bring others to the knowledge of the world's only Savior, Jesus. Spreading God's Word results in a growing number of those who will share in the eternal joys of Heaven. This house we build here on Earth will — by God's grace — build His Kingdom of believers.

Pastor's Message

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever. Psalm 118:1

These words are the closing of a familiar table prayer. They are also fitting theme words for this dedication day and for our building project in general. This day is a special day for **giving thanks to the LORD**. To **give thanks** means to remember or to not forget that all our blessings come from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth. I realize as soon as one starts to **thank** people, one risks leaving someone out, but as we **give thanks**, let us remember the great blessings that God has showered on us especially this day.

Give thanks above all for God's forgiveness and His love, which are and have been at the heart and center of this building project from the start. The word *evangelical*, the middle name of our church, Bethel Evangelical Lutheran, means that we are centered on God's love.

Give thanks to the LORD for the countless people whom the LORD used to bring this building to completion. There are lists elsewhere in this booklet that try to **give thanks to the LORD** for every single person who has helped out in one way or another. *We apologize if anyone was missed.*

Give thanks for the congregation members and members of other WELS congregations who gave their **thank-offerings** to **give thanks to the LORD**. It is with great **thanks to the LORD** and awe at His goodness that He moved the heart of an anonymous donor to contribute over \$1,300,000 to the project.

The Antioch Foundation of *La Crosse* also donated \$100,000 to the project, which was crucial in securing the land. The Church Extension Fund also contributed a grant of nearly \$150,000! **Thanks be to God!**

Give thanks to *Builders For Christ*, an organization of volunteers who traveled here from as far away as Georgia, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, South Dakota, Arizona, Louisiana, and all parts of Wisconsin to donate their time, labor, expertise and Christian example to make this project a reality.

Give thanks for congregation members who volunteered their time in assisting with this project. Again, at the risk of leaving some out, three people bear special mention: Laverne Putz, who was here almost every single day of construction; Mike Dummer, who stepped down from his full-time job to work for love in building the LORD's house after *Builders For Christ* completed their time with us; and Ben Golden, who has chaired the Building Committee for years and was on the site nearly every day.

Give thanks for the numerous people who made and served lunches, brought snacks, organized volunteers and the like. You can't build on an empty stomach. These people made sure there were no empty stomachs on the project. In fact, some stomachs have seen growth under the LORD's guidance. **Give thanks to the LORD** for He is good.

Give thanks for Bethel members who served on the Building Committee. The

committee began as a Facility Planning Committee under the guidance of Paul Koch. This group determined the needs of the congregation would be best met by buying land and building a facility rather than looking for an existing facility. These members have put in literally thousands of hours in meetings, phone calls, paperwork and communication to see this project through to completion. Once planning began, timetables for architectural design, securing permits, working with *Builders For Christ*, organizing volunteers and the like have been under tight time constraints. **Thank** the LORD that He moved these men and women to see things through to the end. **Thank the LORD** for **giving** us the opportunity to build within this time frame and achieve our goals to His glory.

Give thanks for the advisors who have helped us with this project. Members of the Church Extension Fund have been valuable assets in financing and ministry planning. Members of the District Mission Board have been helpful sounding boards with much experience. Area congregations advised us based on recent building projects. **Give thanks to the LORD** for these gifts.

What a day this is for giving thanks! What a day to remember the LORD's goodness. This list of **thanks** could go on forever, for that is how long the LORD's love for us lasts in Jesus Christ. *Give thanks to the LORD for He is good; His love endures forever.*

Giving thanks in the name of Christ,

~ Pastor Nathan Stutz

Building a House of Worship

*Our new sanctuary is full of beautiful symbolism to help us focus on the central message of the Bible: **God's forgiveness of our sins.***

Front and center in our sanctuary is the **cross**, proof of Jesus giving His life to win our forgiveness. For Christians, the cross of Calvary is the center of history and of the world. It is the most terrible and the most glorious place on earth. There God reveals the two mightiest and most mysterious realities in the universe: sin and grace. The cross is a focal point of our faith, with rays of light flowing outward the same way forgiveness comes from the blood of Jesus to us.

Surrounding the chancel area are walls lined with **stones**. The stones represent each Christian as an important piece in the Lord's ministry through Bethel. In 1 Peter 2:5, the apostle writes, "You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." The stones are held together by mortar. Christians are bonded to Christ and each other in God's grace.

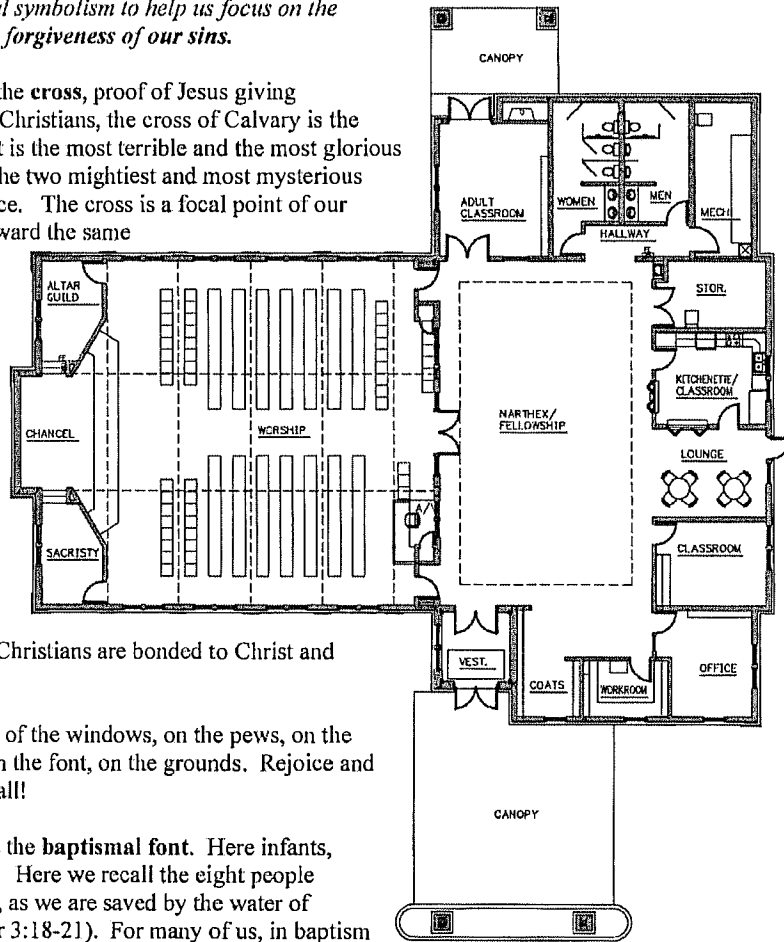
Notice a cross within the framework of the windows, on the pews, on the doors. Notice a stone on the wall, on the font, on the grounds. Rejoice and remember. Proclaim God's love to all!

In the center of the main aisle stands the **baptismal font**. Here infants, children and adults will be baptized. Here we recall the eight people saved in Noah's ark, saved by water, as we are saved by the water of baptism, tied to God's Word (1 Peter 3:18-21). For many of us, in baptism God made us Christians, applying His forgiveness to us and making us living stones in the body of Christ. The font reminds us of the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit—the Triune God in whose Name we are baptized. The font reminds us of how we entered God's invisible Church of believers.

The **chancel area** is marked by two steps setting off the most holy place in our sanctuary. This symbolism carries over from the Old Testament "Holy of Holies" in the Tabernacle and Temple built by Solomon. In a regular service, even the pastor will not step into this area until after the confession and absolution of sins.

Centered in the chancel area is the **altar**. The symbolism of the altar is three-fold. First, the altar serves as the visible symbol of God's presence, much like the Ark of the Covenant in the Old Testament. For this reason, the pastor will face the altar while saying prayers to God and will face the people when speaking for God. Secondly, the altar holds the elements for the Lord's Supper, and is a visible place where the true body and blood of Christ are placed. Thirdly, the altar retains the symbolism of the altar of sacrifice in the Old Testament. Here we place our monetary sacrifices to be used in the Lord's service.

While all of the worship service is a proclamation of the Word of God, the **pulpit** is a special place where God's Word is read and preached. What comes from the pulpit is the Word of God and nothing but the Word of God. Sermons preached from the pulpit are not the words of men, but truly the Word of God.



Stained Glass Windows – Christ's Life

Eight stained glass window scenes in our sanctuary will depict eight scenes from the life of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Eight is a number of Christian significance. The apostle Peter points out in his first book (1 Peter 3:20-21) how God saved eight people in the waters of the flood as a symbol of baptism. Boys in the Old Testament were circumcised on the eighth day as well. And the number eight has been connected with Easter. If you count from Sunday to Sunday you have eight days. So it is no accident that there are eight scenes depicted.

The first window depicts **Jesus' birth, with a nativity star and angel**. What better place to begin portraying the life of Jesus than with the *"good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ, the Lord."* (Luke 2:10-11)

The second window pictures **the baptism of our Lord** where Jesus openly took the place of all sinners and officially began his public ministry as our Substitute. One hymn writer summarizes the meaning of Jesus' baptism this way, *"Now rise faint hearts: be resolute! This man is Christ our Substitute! He was baptized in Jordan's stream, proclaimed Redeemer, Lord Supreme."* (Christian Worship #89 v.6)

The third window pictures **Jesus as the Good Shepherd**. Jesus in John 10 calls himself the *"Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep."* We are the sheep of His flock; it is comforting to know The Good Shepherd is leading us to still waters and quiet pastures, guarding us along the way so that we have nothing to fear. (Psalm 23, selected verses)

The fourth window shows **Jesus blessing the little children**, an important reminder to us that Jesus

wants all to believe with a child-like faith:
"The kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Mark 10:14)

In the fifth window we see **Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane**. Just hours before His death, Jesus prayed for strength from God our Heavenly Father and was encouraged to walk the way of sorrows in our place. *"Yet not as I will, but as you will."* (Matthew 26:39) This scene very much depicts the true humanity of Jesus and the reality of the suffering He endured.

The sixth window is the crucifixion, when **Jesus gave up his life for our sins**. The apostle John records in his gospel (19:30) the best words ever spoken--*"It is finished!"* This is inscribed in this window as The Word is inscribed in our hearts. All our sins are paid in full. Forever!

The seventh window is **the empty tomb at Jesus' Resurrection**. Easter is far and away the best celebration of the Christian Church year. The resurrection is our assurance that our sins are forgiven. Jesus is truly the Son of God; all His words are trustworthy and true, and all who believe in Jesus will rise to perfect, eternal life. (Luke 24:45-49) No wonder that on Easter we greet each other with the words, *"The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed!"*

The eighth window pictures **our Lord's Ascension into Heaven**. This proves His power and authority over all things in heaven and on earth. In the early Christian Church, Ascension was the third greatest celebration, right behind Christmas and Easter, as it showed that Jesus did not rise from the dead to die again. (Acts 1:1-11) He rose to live! He rose to reign forever and ever!

We pray this brief description will help you better appreciate the symbolism of the stained glass windows that have been given to the glory of God and for the building up of Christ's people, whom He bought with His own blood.

Building For Christ

It was a privilege and a joy to host the Builders For Christ in Bethel-Arcadia. Words fail to express our sincere gratitude for their labor, friendship and the Christian support they have offered to this project.

Builders For Christ is a remarkable organization of mostly retired WELS men and women who volunteer their time and skills. They travel throughout the United States and beyond to construct buildings to the glory of God.

Working right alongside the Builders For Christ and our own members were many Friends of Bethel from area WELS congregations and elsewhere. Thank you to all who assisted our efforts at raising this house for God.

Project Managers

John & Barb Bubolz of Fox Lake, WI and Martin & Rose Leyrer of Muskegon, MI

Builders for Christ

Rollin Barkeim	Trempealeau, WI	Dale & Sue Mueller	Hartford, WI
Virgil & Judy Bender	Wisconsin	Mel & Melba Niemeyer	Alexandria, LA
Irwin & Judy Bolenbaugh	Plainwell, MI	Ted & Genevieve Nommensen	West Bend, WI
Steve & Gayle Bradford	Madison, GA	Erlin & Bev Nuessmeier	Hudson, WI
Dale & Kathy Bramstedt	Cleveland, WI	Mark & Betty Pamperin	Allenton, WI
Jim Diehm	Remus, WI	Edward & Dorothy Parduhn	Oakfield, WI
Al & Pat Doerflinger	Pleasant Prairie, WI	Robert & Patricia Parker	Forest Lake, WI
Lewis Enderle	West Bend, WI	Orlin & Renae Plath	Hastings, MN
Robert & Marlene Ewer	Olivia, MN	Eugene & Rachel Rabe	Sheboygan, WI
Richard & Sandra Fuoss	Hendricks, MN	Roger Roehl	Midland, MI
Lloyd & Joyce Gatzke	West Bend, WI	William & Phyllis Schmidt	Watertown, WI
Wayne & Elaine Gerdes	Elk River, MN	Neil & Gail Schultz	Balaton, MN
Ronnie & Judith Hedtke	Atwater, MN	Roger & Barb Smith	Little Chute, WI
Merlin Hennig	La Crosse, WI	Norman & Betty Stellick	Rhineland, WI
Steve Jenkins	Randolph, WI	Merlin & Karen Stuebs	Appleton, WI
Lester & Jerilyn Kramer	Elkton, SD	Warren & Doris Stuebs	Chippewa Falls, WI
Dennis & Janice Krueger	Tucson, AZ	Dennis & Arlene Tennier	West Bend, WI
Ralph & Audrey Kunz	Oxford, GA	Glen & Nina Wiesmueller	Fox Lake, WI
Thomas & Christine Laich	Fond du Lac, WI	Leeun & Julene Werner	Little Falls, MN
Robert & Janice Levenhagen	Fond du Lac, WI	Delbert & Evelyn Wetzel	Olivia, MN
Stuart Matthias	Ashland, WI		

Friends of Bethel

Leo & Shirley Adams, Eau Claire	Greg & Ruth Golden, Arcadia	Dan Kunz, La Crosse
Pablo Arciniega, Arcadia	Katie & Cindy Hanson,	Scott & Charity Lambert, Arcadia
Shaun & Jamie Arndt, Holmen	Goodview, MN	Carl Mueller, Onalaska
Bill Bader, Onalaska	Gary & Sharon Harter, La Crosse	James & Gail Mumm, Eau Claire
Gary Bautch, Arcadia	Mathias, Miles & Zach Harter,	Marv & Carol Niemeyer,
Steve & Kim Blado, Onalaska	La Crosse	Goodview MN
Alex Casper	Mark Herdt, Arcadia	Mary Rose Putz, Arcadia
Neil & Bonnie Cloutier, Holmen	Duane & Norma Herold, Arcadia	Gene & Shirley Rolvaag, Eau Claire
Fred Craig, Holmen	Gwen Hersch, Winona, MN	Kari Rosenberg, Onalaska
Shane Davis, Holmen	Frederick Heuer, Holmen	Duane & Mary Schlender, Holmen
Jeff Dehning, Holmen	Luke Horstman, Holmen	LeRoy Sobotta
Howard & Janet Dorn, Eau Claire	Phillip & Scott Johnson	Gary & Rita Steffenhagen, Eau Claire
Eric Dummer, Bangor	Charles Kasinger, West Salem	Joel Stuebs, West Salem
Joshua & Kevon Dummer, Onalaska	Alice Klawiter, Winona, MN	Kip & Justin Stuebs, West Salem
Phillip Dummer, Onalaska	Merlyn & Marlene Klebig,	Wayne Thompson, Osseo
Debbie Enter, West Palm Beach FL	Fountain City	Matthew Van Loon, La Crosse
Charlie Everson, Arcadia	Charlie Knowlton, Arcadia	Ron & Joyce Wanek, Arcadia
Eugene Falkenberg, Holmen	Danny & Darlene Kotlarz,	Jack & Kevin Weis, Fountain City
Ken & Peggy Gandyra, Arcadia	Independence	Hans Zietlow, La Crosse

Building a People for Praise

The members of Bethel spent many hours praying for, planning and preparing to make this day a reality. Every member has contributed and volunteered in some way by offering their gifts of time, money and ability—all to the glory of the LORD.

Building Committee

Ben Golden, *Chairman*
 Laura Ali
 Mike Dummer
 Todd & Wendy Eckart
 Chelsea Golden
 Eileen Hanson, *Secretary*
 Jim Howell
 Paul & Debbie Koch
 Rosa Mooney
 Gary Putz
 Laverne Putz
 JoAnne Wier

Design Committee

Ben Golden, *Chairman*
 Bruce Arnoldy
 Tim Betts
 Mike Dummer
 Wendy Eckart
 Jim Howell
 Debbie Koch
 David & Rosa Mooney

Housing Providers

Paul & Debbie Koch
 Laverne Putz

Builders For Christ & Church Ext. Fund

Coordinators

Bruce Arnoldy
 Todd Eckart

Volunteer

Coordinators

Bruce Arnoldy
 Mike Dummer
 Rosa Mooney

On-Site Project

Manager

Mike Dummer

Volunteer Builders

Robert & Laura Ali
 Bethany & Corrina Ali
 Bruce Arnoldy
 Rollin Barkeim
 Tyler & Brandon Beck
 Gary Bender
 Tim Betts
 Jonathan & Melanie
 Bourman
 Mike & Tara Dummer
 Todd & Wendy Eckart
 Ian & Marina Eckart
 Dave & Kay Evenson
 Annie Geske
 Ben & Chelsea Golden
 Briar, Brookelynn &
 Breah Anna Golden
 David & Eileen Hanson
 Noah & Eve Headrick
 Nick, Ben & Allison
 Hofland
 Jim Howell

Dawn Knowlton
 Savannah, Colton &
 Cheyanne Schneider
 Martin & Janice Knudsen
 Olivia, Garret & Rachel
 Fred Lintelmann
 Jeff McNamer
 David & Rosa Mooney
 Isabelle & Olivia Mooney
 Jon & Lisa Nelson
 Esther Peterson
 Richard Phillips
 Gary Putz
 Laverne Putz
 Larissa Schock
 Susan Schue
 Nathan & Elizabeth
 Strutz
 Caleb & Elijah Strutz
 JoAnne Wier

Jack-of-all-Trades
 Laverne Putz

Feeding the Builders

Providing lunch, snacks and beverages for a crew of hungry workers is a job in itself. Ladies from area WELS churches along with ladies from Bethel rose to the challenge and fed the volunteer workers and their spouses.

Meal Planning Coordinator

Rosa Mooney

Friends of Bethel

Christ Ev. Luth. Church, Mindoro, WI
 Christ Luth. Church, Cochrane, WI
 Christ Luth. Church, West Salem, WI
 Dr. Martin Luther Church, Buffalo City, WI
 Good Shepherd – Red Hat Ladies, Holmen, WI
 Good Shepherd Luth. Church, Holmen, WI
 Goodview Trinity Luth Church, Goodview, MN
 Grace Ev. Luth Church, La Crosse, WI
 Jehovah Ev. Luth. Church, Altura, MN
 Mt. Calvary Luth. Church, La Crosse, WI
 St. John's Ev. Luth. Church, Sparta, WI
 St. John's Ev. Luth. Church, Lewiston, MN
 St. John's Luth. Church, Caledonia, MN

St. Luke Luth Church, Pickwick, MN
 St. Mark's Luth Church, Eau Claire, WI
 St. Matthew's Ev. Luth Church, Stoddard, WI
 St. Matthew's Ev. Luth Church, Winona, WI
 St. Michael's Luth Church, Fountain City, WI
 St. Paul's Ev. Luth Church, Onalaska, WI
 Zion Lutheran Church, Cream-Alma, WI

Ladies of Bethel

Laura Ali
 Mardelle Arnoldy
 Tara Dummer
 Wendy Eckart
 Kay Evenson
 Mary Gilbert
 Chelsea Golden
 Eileen Hanson

Deb & Allison Hofland
 Janice Knudsen
 Debbie Koch
 Rosa Mooney
 Erna Putz
 Elizabeth Strutz
 JoAnne Wier
 Dawn Knowlton

The History of Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church Arcadia, Wisconsin

The history of Bethel-Arcadia is very much tied with Bethel-Galesville. The two sites continue to operate as one congregation to this day.

From its beginning in 1976, Bethel has been the only Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod congregation in Trempealeau County. The members of Bethel have always been filled with a desire to reach out to the entire county, especially Arcadia.

In the late 1990's and early in the 21st century of our Lord, our Savior made this dream of reaching out and planting a new church a reality. During this time, four families from the Arcadia area joined the congregation.

In the year 2000, Bethel was given a grant to explore church-planting options in the communities of Arcadia, Independence and Whitehall. In the summer of 2001, three WELS college students—Melanie Sosinski, Jackie Horton, Amanda Koepsell—and seminarian Joel Stuebs canvassed the three communities intensely with some help from Bethel members and other WELS members in the area.

On July 18, 2001, the first Bible study was held at the Electric Utility Building at 401 W. Main Street, Arcadia. On Saturday evening, December 22, 2001, the first worship service was held. Services were initially held on Saturday evenings, and then moved to Sunday mornings in March of 2003.

New and expanding ministry needs called for a staffing change. On January 27, 2002, members of Bethel and Good Shepherd in Holmen, WI, dissolved the dual-parish arrangement that had served both congregations well for more than 25 years. The Lord led Pastor Nathan Strutz to accept the call to be the first full-time pastor of Bethel in Galesville and Arcadia. He continues to serve Bethel today.

In May 2003, the first vicar, Tyler Piel, was assigned to serve the congregation. Bethel has been blessed with four other vicars since: Dan Olson, Michael Novotny, Jonathan Bourman and Noah Headrick who currently serves.

As the Arcadia congregation continued to grow under God's blessings, more blessings were realized. The initial group of Arcadia members numbered about 15; that number has steadily grown to over 80 today. For this we praise the Lord!

At first, members of Bethel-Arcadia were assisted in outreach and planning by members of Bethel in Galesville. Over time, members in Arcadia began to take over responsibility for the growing congregation.

As the Arcadia congregation grew, plans for a permanent facility grew in the minds of members as well. Initially, a

committee was formed to examine the feasibility of purchasing an existing facility in the community. Several were considered; none served well the needs of the congregation. The search for land began, and thanks to a generous grant from the Antioch Foundation of La Crosse, the 7.6 acre parcel on which the church sits was purchased in February of 2006.

Facility planning continued, with the congregation authorizing a \$500,000 project in June 2006. Shortly thereafter, an anonymous donor came forward with a grant of \$500,000 to assist the congregation in expanding and beautifying the facility. The gift of that donor has since increased to over \$1,300,000.

On April 1, 2007, members and friends of Bethel gathered on an overcast spring day on a bare knoll for the groundbreaking, with everyone turning over a shovel of earth in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Construction on the facility began soon after. *Builders For Christ* volunteers arrived June 19, 2007, and stayed until September 8, 2007. The first service in the new sanctuary was held on Sunday, February 10, 2008.

Today, April 27, 2008, we dedicate this building to God's glory and rededicate ourselves for service in His kingdom.

In the Lord's Service at Bethel-Arcadia

Pastors

Bethel has been blessed by the service of six pastors over the years of our history. We thank God for the men and for the faithful teaching and preaching of His Word.

1977 – 1984
~ Donald Swartz ~

1984 – 1989
~ Joel Suckow ~

1989 – 1995
~ Andrew Bauer ~

1995 – 1997
~ Dan Schoeffel ~

1997 – present
~ Nathan Strutz ~

Vicars

With financial support of several area WELS congregations and funds from the synod budget, Bethel has been blessed to have the assistance of a vicar (a third-year Seminary student) assigned each year since 2003. His efforts focus on outreach in the Arcadia area. Assignments for serving Bethel are for one year (assigned in May, installed in August, return to Seminary the following August).

2003 – 2004
~ Tyler Peil ~

2004 – 2005
~ Dan Olson ~

2005 – 2006
~ Michael Novotny ~

2006 – 2007
~ Jonathan Bourman ~

2007 – present
~ Noah Headrick ~

A Word From the Building Committee . . .

At the start of our many building committee meetings, blank pages in hand, we considered a number of options: a garage? a multi-use room? a double-wide trailer? As the Holy Spirit worked through us, and through others, many changes took place, donations came in and designs began to take shape. The blank pages were filled and drawings were developed into a set of plans. We had blueprints! We were building a church! We were building Bethel – a house for worship.

Our goal was to design a church distinctively Lutheran, and it seems the Martin Luther bronze statue sets the stage. We wanted our house for worship to have a timeless feel – to emulate our unchanging doctrine and our steadfast values. With heavy timbers, stone walls, bronze, and copper we now give a sense of permanence in the community.

Now as we finalize the details of this building project, we set our sites on the future – a people for praise. We look forward to the opportunities in evangelism and filling these seats with souls eager to hear the saving message of God's Word. We look forward to witnessing new Christians being baptized, learning, sharing and celebrating in fellowship in our new facility, and in His kingdom forevermore.

We are thankful to God for the many ways He has put generosity into the hearts of those that have given so much to make Bethel a reality. We express our gratitude to all those that have shown such dedication to this project, giving the best of their time, talents and resources.

~ Ben Golden

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!
Dedication, Celebration Concert & Open House

Lastly, we thank those who helped make our Dedication Day, the Appreciation Concert and the Community Open House such memorable events.

We thank those Bethel families who recently spread invitations throughout the Arcadia community and those who came for the cleaning parties every Saturday since February and especially for clean-up and set-up yesterday. We thank our greeters and ushers, the parking lot attendants and the haulers of tables & chairs. If we missed your name—it was inadvertent—we deeply appreciate every bit of help we've received.

Most importantly, we want to thank Our Heavenly Father for the gracious gift He has given us in this beautiful church building. May all that we do here and in His name, be done to His glory, and may all who enter here be blessed, as we have been blessed by others!

Dedication Meal & Reception

Marion Waldera Catering, Arcadia
 Mardelle Arnoldy, cake
 Debbie Koch, *Hostess*
 Dave & Kay Evenson
 Mike & Mary Gilbert
 Bethel Teens
 Bethel-Galesville Ladies' Group, reception treats

Children's Activities

Bethel-Arcadia Catechism Class

Memories – Power Point

Wendy Eckart
 Chelsea Golden

Dedication Worship Service Organist

Allison Hofland (using *Hymnsoft*)

Decorations

Centerpieces by Wendy Eckart
 Flowers from Briar Patch, Arcadia

Overflow Parking & Shuttle Bus Service

Riverland Energy
 Arcadia School District

Appreciation - Celebration Concert

Last summer we hosted Chris Dreisbach's on-site performance as he thanked the BFC program for their assistance in his home congregation after Hurricane Katrina. We are blessed—once again—to host this encore performance celebrating our Lord's gracious favor in helping us erect this beautiful building to His glory!

Refreshments for the Concert

Bethel Families

Refreshments for the Open House

Ladies of Bethel

Planning Committee

JoAnne Wier, *Chairlady*
 Laura Ali
 Wendy Eckart
 Eileen Hanson
 Eve Headrick
 Deb Holland
 Janice Knudsen

Booklet Printing & Contributors

Supreme Graphics, Arcadia, printing
 Deb Hofland, *Editor*
 Wendy Eckart
 Ben Golden
 Eve Headrick
 Nick Hofland
 Nathan & Elizabeth Strutz

Our Mission at Bethel . . .

Come and see, go and tell. As men, women and children united by a common confession of faith based on the Holy Scriptures, we, the members of Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, exist to glorify God. We regularly gather to study the Word of God in the Bible. Encouraged by the promise of redemption and filled with God's grace, we go forth in our daily lives using the talents God has given us to spread His Word to our community and our world.

Worship & Bible Study Opportunities at Bethel-Arcadia

Sunday morning worship is at 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary followed by a time of fellowship in the narthex. At 10:30 a.m. we offer *Sunday School* classes for children and at 10:30 a.m. *Bible class* for adults and teens; we have extra Bibles to share.

Weekly Bible study classes are also available. Tuesday nights, we meet in Blair at 7:00 p.m. at the Blair-Taylor High School cafeteria or library. Thursday nights, Vicar hosts a class at his home at 7:00 p.m. (608-323-3270)

Bible information classes and private in-home Bible studies are also easily arranged by contacting Pastor Strutz (608-323-2388, Arcadia or 608-582-9998, Galesville).

One-, two-, or three-year Bible-reading plans are available on the back table or a daily Bible reading can be sent via e-mail; set that up by contacting nwstrutz@aol.com.

*Thank you for joining us today and sharing our joy on this special occasion.
We pray we will see you at a worship service and/or Bible study sometime soon.*