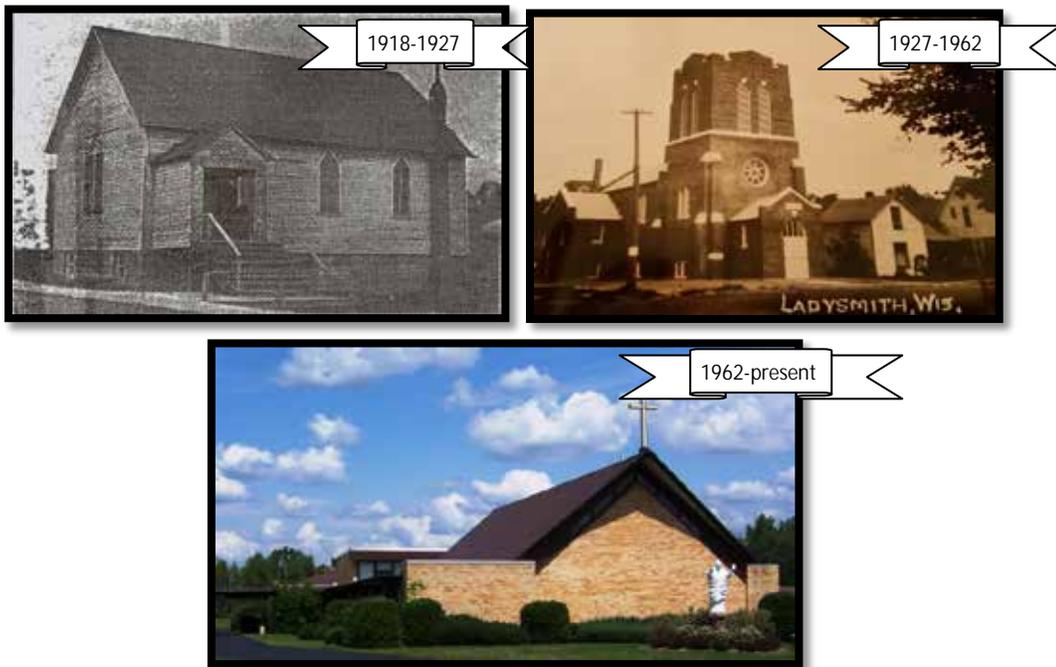


# **Historical Highlights**

## **St. John's Lutheran Church**

### **Ladysmith, WI**



**Sharing the Love of Jesus-“Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow”**

**2007-2016**

**Historical Highlights for 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**June 2016**

## Historical Highlights

January 2007-May 2016

### History 2007

March 2007, Pastor Ahonen announced he accepted a call to serve as a missionary pastor in affiliation with Salem Lutheran Church in Malone, Texas. His last service with St. John's was on May 27<sup>th</sup>. After worship, a dinner was held in honor of Pastor and his family.

"Avalanche Ranch" Vacation Bible School (VBS) was held in July with 85 children attending.

Reverend Gary Lodholz served as vacancy pastor for St. John's for the remainder of 2007.

In November, the fellowship hall was painted, and new tables and chairs were purchased. New Lutheran Service Books (LSB) were purchased and dedicated on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### History 2008

The trim on the church was repainted in June. A call was extended to Pastor Brian Idt from Aberdeen, South Dakota in June. Pastor Idt accepted the call in July. Reverend Lodholz served as vacancy pastor in 2008 until Reverend Idt was installed on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

VBS was held in July with 75 children in attendance. The theme was "Power Lab".

### History 2009

In February, St. John's Youth Group sponsored the band *Crush*, made up of a group of local teens, who do presentations on drug and alcohol awareness. They performed in the fellowship hall on Feb 1.

"*Crocodile Dock*" was the theme for VBS held July 19-23. Sixty children enjoyed the week learning about Jesus.

During August, the Board of Stewardship organized a free community picnic held in Memorial Park on Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>. It was an opportunity to show our Christian love to people having a hard time.

St. John's Ladies Aid completed 60 health kits in September and sent them to Lutheran World Relief.

Building projects completed in 2009 included refurbishing and moving the secretary's office, painting the parsonage, and a new stair rail for the sanctuary of the church. The "Resurrection" stained glass windows on the south side of the front lobby were donated in memory of Betty Rydlund by her loving family. The four stained glass windows now compliment the statue of Jesus that was a gift from the Balko Family when the church was dedicated in 1962.

### History 2010

During February, the Sunday School Youth collected donations for the people in Haiti that were affected by the earthquake.

Pastor Idt announced in March that he would be returning to South Dakota the end of May. A Farewell Fellowship Dinner for Pastor Idt and his family was held on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Gary Lodholz returned to serve as St. John's vacancy pastor in June and continued until the end of the year. Vacation Bible School was held again in July, titled "*Bring Them to Me*". It was held 4 evenings and the children were served supper before VBS.

A new metal roof was installed over the church in August for a total cost of \$54,000.

400 crosses were displayed on the church lawn in September. The display represented the 4000 abortions performed in the United States each day.

Old shrubbery around the church was removed in the fall, and new shrubs will be planted in the spring.

### History 2011

Reverend Gary Lodholz continued as vacancy pastor until November. On November 13<sup>th</sup>, Reverend Mark Pflughoeft was installed as St. John's pastor for an intentional interim.

During 2011, the Board of Elders began the process of developing a policy manual for St. John's. Usher teams were developed to improve usher coordination for each service.

New signage was added to the outside of the church to label the main office door. In addition, "No Weapons Allowed" signs were installed at entry doors.

Changes in the worship service included using the Lutheran Service Book (LSB) for the 8 am service and the Creative Worship order of service for the 10:30 am service.

### History 2012

Cottage Meetings were held at various members houses throughout the month of May. The meetings were an opportunity for Pastor Pflughoeft to get to know the members better.

The old church sign was taken down in August and replaced with a new sign for a cost of \$7,560.

During October, the Cemetery of the Innocents, a collection of 400 crosses representing aborted babies was displayed on the church lawn.

During 2012, St. John's first website was launched, a lighting upgrade was completed in the Sunday School addition, and the board approved the use of part of the church property for a snowmobile trail.

### 2013 History

Outreach was done to the Ladysmith International students. This included giving posters to Mount Scenario's Dorm to invite students to worship and Bible studies.

In Dec, the Sunday School had a Mitten Tree Mission with over 200 items donated to local children to share the warmth of knowing Jesus.

### 2014 History

VBS was held in July, with 23 children attending a week- long event lead by Camp Luther Counselors. Pastor Pflughoeft served St. John's from November 13, 2011- August 24, 2014.

Rev. Edgar E. Barg went to be with the Lord on Sept. 1, 2014. His funeral service was held at St. John's on Sept. 5, 2014. Rev. Barg served at St. John's from Sept. 8, 1968-Dec. 31, 1989. He was the longest serving pastor in the 100 year history of St. John's.

On Sept. 21, 2014, Pastor Craig Zandi was installed as the new pastor of St. John's.

During 2014, the church property was improved with a new roof over the Sunday School and carport. Four stained glass windows on the west side of the front lobby were placed in memory of Mark Balko and Herb & Alda Kisling. The four windows were donated by their loving families and the stained glass depicts the four apostles: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

### History 2015

Opportunities for worship, bible study, fellowship and service were abundant in 2015.

Worship was enhanced with the restarting of the St. John's choir, a pre-service hymn sing monthly, and usher training. Greeter training will be offered in January 2016.

Bible study opportunities increased with Sunday morning Bible Studies, monthly evening Bible Studies, Ladies Evening Bible Study courses lasting for a 6 week session, monthly summer Campfire Devotions, and Men's Breakfast and Bible Study bimonthly. In addition to Sunday School and Christian Preschool education, Vacation Bible School was held as a 1 day event with 23 students attending.

Increased community visibility of St. John's Christian Preschool was promoted with a Mardi Gras Float in the shape of a school bus. Preschool Administrator/Teacher Roberta Baye retired in May of 2015, and Janice Zandi was hired as her replacement.

The youth group was re-organized and planning and fundraising was started to send youth to the 2016 LCMS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

A 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee was formed to start planning for the church's centennial year in 2016. A new church directory was completed and will be distributed in early Feb. 2016. Three events are planned around the theme- "Sharing the Love of Jesus, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow".

Plans also started to design and fund a new church office on the north end of the Sunday School addition to improve safety and security for the preschool children. The existing Teen Sunday School room will be remodeled for the new office. Moving the office closer to the parking lot will also provide better access for the public and deliveries.

History Jan.-May 2016

The new 2016 Church Directories, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary calendars, and tote bags were distributed in January. There will be 3 celebrations for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. "Honoring the Past" on June 19<sup>th</sup>, "Celebrating the Present" on August 21<sup>st</sup>, and "Forward to the Future" on Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>. A written and pictorial history of the church will be posted on the church website. The new church office is nearly completed. Our Christian Preschool has been filled to capacity. Three youth are planning to attend the LCMS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July. Many opportunities for worship, bible study, service and fellowship continue to be offered each week. The church website posts the monthly newsletter and calendar of church events.

Our Parish Record

	Baptisms	Confirmations	Weddings	Funerals
1916-1926	46	10	2	1
1926-1936	112	110	31	27
1937-1946	130	80	33	11
1946-1956	151	93	36	16
1957-1966	290	251	72	76
1967-1976	174	182	101	96
1977-1986	180	164	85	87
1987-1996	124	77	55	84
1997-2006	112	92	52	101
2007-2015	36	30	12	57

The members of St. John's are grateful for the 15 faithful pastors God has provided, to lead us through 100 years of "Sharing the Love of Jesus- Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow". We truly have much to be thankful for as we continue in His Word and Work!

**"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen."**

**Servants of the Lord in Ministry at St. John's**

1915-1917	Reverend Ernest Schwartz
1917-1918	Reverend R. Reichmann
1918-1919	Reverend F. Gohlke
1920-1924	Reverend C.B. Voelz
1924-1927	Reverend H. Proehl
1927-1934	Reverend Lawrence Gallman
1935-1955	Reverend Edwin M. Kuerschner
1956-1966	Reverend Eldore Messerschmidt
1967-1968	Reverend David Brockopp
1968-1989	Reverend Edgar Barg
1990-2003	Reverend Brent G. Berkesch
2004-2007	Reverend Jeffrey A. Ahonen
2008-2010	Reverend Brian W. Idt
2011- 2014	Reverend Mark E. Pflughoeft
2014-present	Reverend Craig S. Zandi