

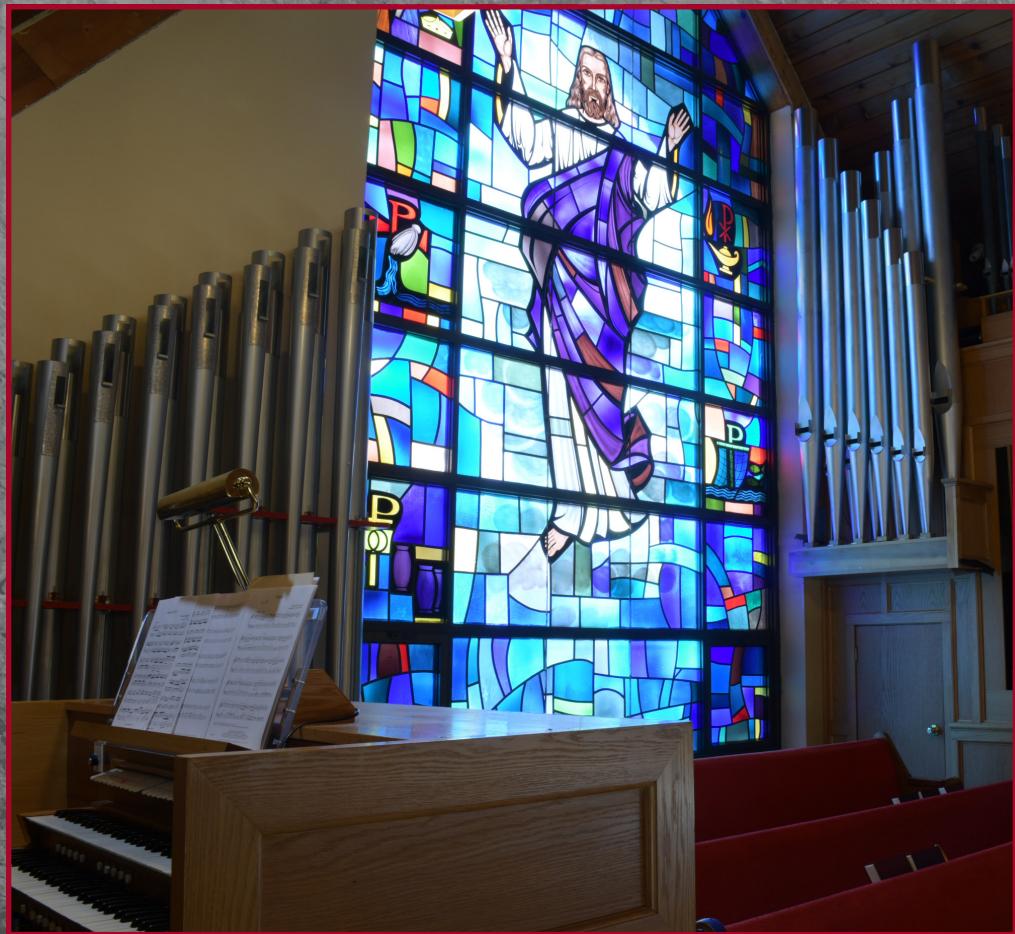


1887-1888



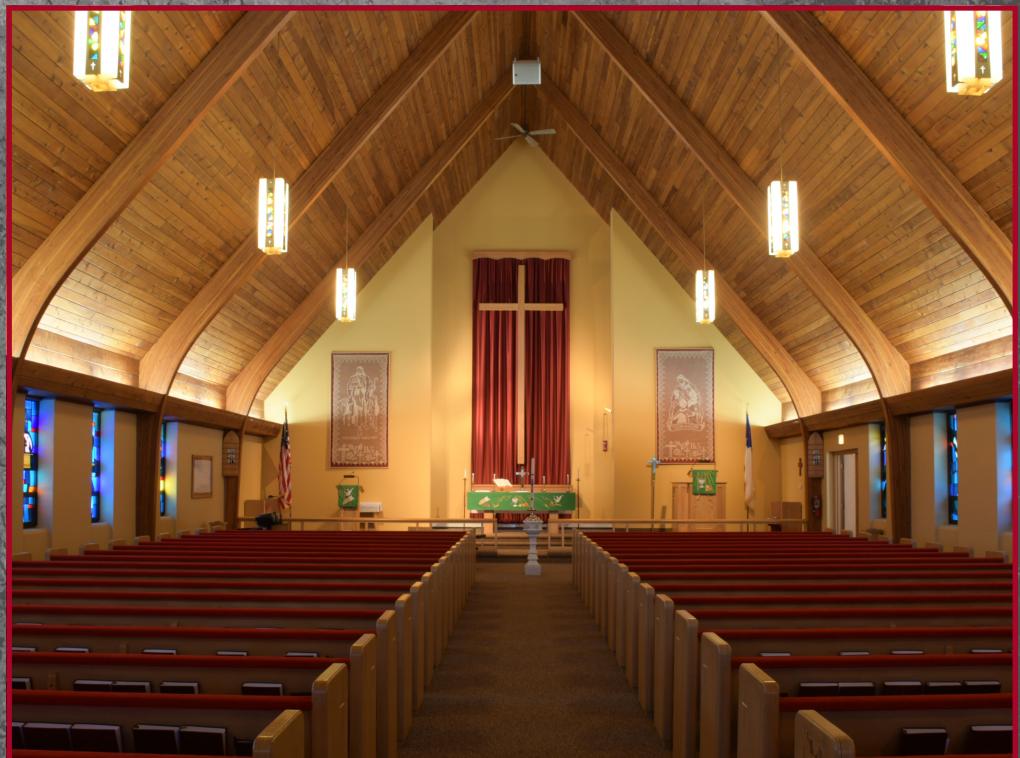
2022

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Augusta, Wisconsin
In Commemoration of 150 Years

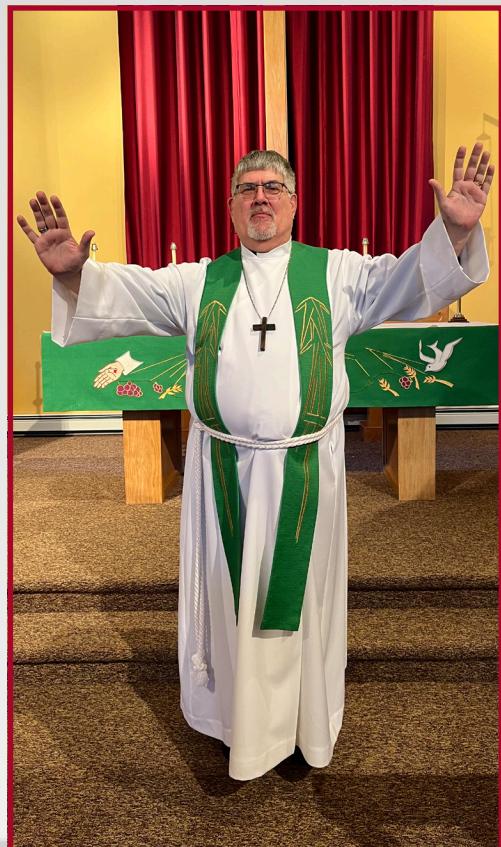


IN 150 YEARS THERE WERE
2,552 Baptisms 2,011 Confirmations 754 Weddings 1,218 Funerals

As of December 31, 2021



PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Pastor Jonathan Wessel

**"JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME YESTERDAY
AND TODAY AND FOREVER."
HEBREWS 13:8 ESV**

In these pages you will see the yesterday and today of Grace Lutheran Church. Many things have changed:

German language services to English

The *Lutheran Hymnal* to the *Lutheran Service Book*

King James Version of the Bible
to the English Standard Version

Men and women sitting on separate
sides to all sitting together

There are many more.

The message remains the same. We are sinners and need saving. Jesus Christ comes to fulfill the Law, shed His blood on the cross for the forgiveness of sins, the third day raised from the dead, ascended to the right hand of the father, preparing heaven for us for an eternity of peace and joy.

Nothing else matters. This will be the message that Grace will continue to proclaim in word and deed to young and old alike in Augusta. The hymn says it so well:

Let none hear you idly saying, "there is nothing I can do,"

While the multitudes are dying and the Master calls for you.

Take the task He gives you gladly,
let His work your pleasure be;

Answer quickly when He calleth,
"Here am I, send me, send me!" (LSB 826:4)

In the service of Christ, I remain,

Rev. Jonathan A. Wessel

Pastor

**HISTORY OF
PASTORAL
SERVICE**

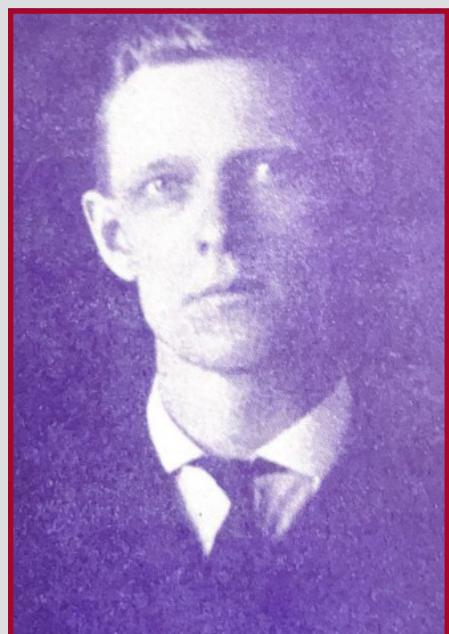
Rev. W.J. Freiderich, 1869-1871
Rev. F.W. Ruediger, 1874-1876
Rev. H.F. Proehl, 1876-1888
Rev. H. Bruss, 1888-1890
Rev. H. Stute, 1890-1891
Rev. J.J. Oetjen, 1891-1892
Rev. O. Braem, 1892-1915
Rev. O. List, 1915-1941
Rev. H. Mueller, 1941-1948
Rev. E.G. Schedler, 1948-1974
Rev. Arleigh Lutz, 1974-1985
Rev. Carlton Kangas, 1985-2003
Rev. Neal MacLachlan,
2001-2007 (Visitation)
Rev. Cory Rajek, 2004-2009
Rev. Jonathan Wessel, 2009-Present



PASTOR PROEHL

H. F. PROEHL 1876-1888

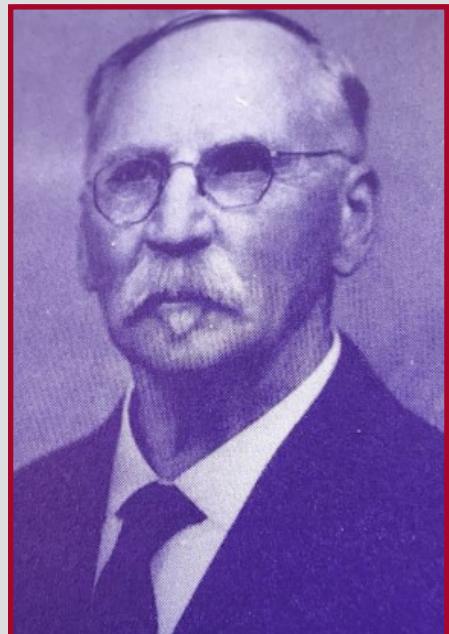
Pastor Proehl came to Grace Lutheran Church in 1876 and faithfully served the parish for over 12 years until November 17, 1888. During this time, the church experienced a fine growth in the number of parishioners. The official acts reveal that people as far away as Alma Center brought their children for baptism. After twelve years of service to four congregations, Pastor Proehl accepted a call to Lebanon, Wisconsin.



PASTOR BRAEM

OTTO BRAEM 1892-1915

Pastor Otto Braem was born in West Prussia, Germany in 1865 and after eventually settling in the United States, graduated from Concordia Seminary in Springfield, Illinois in 1892. He accepted a call from Grace Lutheran Church in Augusta and St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bear's Grass that same year. There, he served faithfully for over 22 years. In 1915 Rev. Braem accepted a call from St. John's near Algoma, Wisconsin, but unfortunately passed away from heart failure after only serving there one year. Pastor Braem is buried in Augusta's East Lawn Cemetery.



PASTOR LIST

OTTO LIST 1915-1941

Pastor Adam Otto List was born in Frankenmuth, Michigan in 1865 and graduated from Concordia Lutheran Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri in 1888. He was pastor at a church in Wittenberg, Wisconsin when he accepted a call from Grace Lutheran Church and St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Augusta in 1915 and remained until 1941. Pastor List was responsible for the establishment of a parochial school in Augusta in 1915 and preached his last sermon in German on the 75th anniversary of the founding of Grace Lutheran Church. Buried in the East Lawn Cemetery in Augusta, Pastor List passed away in 1947.

PASTOR MUELLER

H. Y. MUELLER 1941-1948

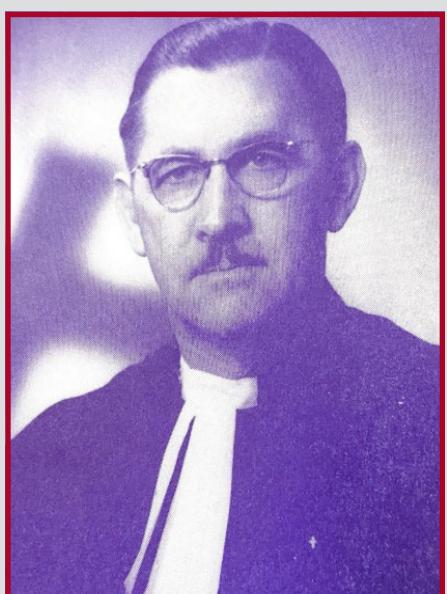
Pastor H. Y. Mueller was born in 1896 and graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. He served as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Augusta from 1941-1948 with his last parish being in New Haven, Indiana where he retired in 1962. Pastor Mueller passed away in 1982 and is buried in Grafton, Wisconsin.



PASTOR SCHEDLER

EDMUND G. SCHEDLER 1948-1974

Pastor Edmund G. Schedler, born in 1906 in Minnesota, graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri in 1931. He accepted the call to be pastor of Grace Lutheran and St. Peter's of Augusta in 1948 and served faithfully until 1974 at which time he retired and moved to Eau Claire. An interesting fact is that Pastor Schedler had six brothers who were also active in the ministry. Pastor Schedler died in May of 1985, and his funeral was at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Eau Claire.



PASTOR LUTZ

ARLEIGH LUTZ 1974-1985

Pastor Arleigh Lutz was born in 1937 in Portage County, Wisconsin, studied at Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield, Illinois, and was later ordained at his home church in Almond, Wisconsin. He was installed as pastor at Grace Lutheran Church and St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Augusta on June 9, 1974 where he ministered until 1985. Upon leaving Augusta, Pastor Lutz became president of the LCMS North WI District. He is now retired and lives with his wife Barb in Wausau; they are parents of John and Laurie.



PASTOR KANGAS

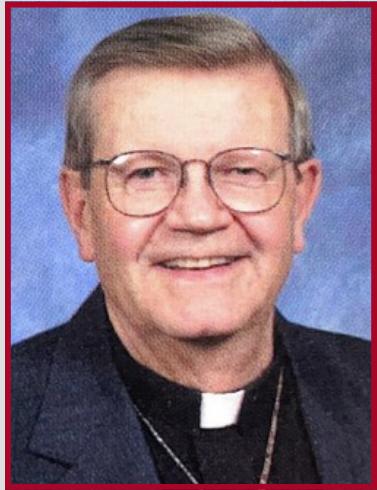
CARLTON
KANGAS
1985-2003



Pastor Carlton Kangas was born in 1952 in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota and graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Prior to coming to Grace and St. Peter's where he ministered from 1985 to 2003, he was in Mellen, Wisconsin. After leaving Augusta, Pastor Kangas became the pastor of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. In 2016 he assumed the pastoral role in Fall Creek, Wisconsin for St. Paul's and St. John's Lutheran Churches, where he will retire in June of 2022. Pastor Kangas and his wife Jane have three girls – Kara, Katria, and Kristen.

PASTOR MacLACHLAN

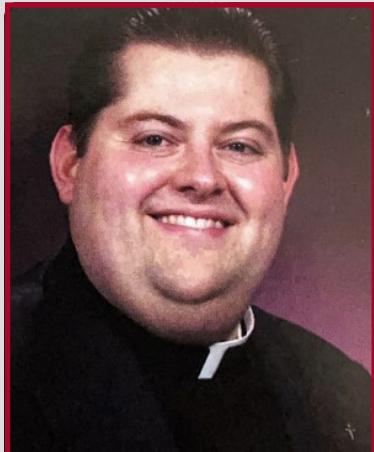
NEAL
MACLACHLAN
2001-2007



Pastor MacLachlan graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield, Illinois and went on to serve churches in Iowa, Minnesota, and Colorado. He retired in 2000 but served as visitation pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Augusta, Wisconsin for several years. Living in Ladysmith, Pastor Mac teaches a men's Bible study at a local establishment. He and his wife Jan, parents of two children, are considering moving to a retirement community in Minnesota.

PASTOR RAJEK

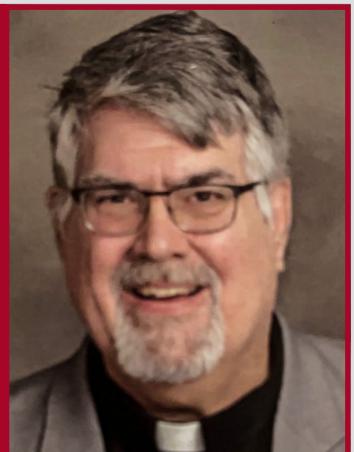
CORY RAJEK
2004-2009



Pastor Rajek is from Merrill, Wisconsin and received his Master of Divinity degree from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. He served as pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Augusta from 2004-2009. Currently, he and his wife Jennifer, parents of Emiley and Alexis, are serving the Lord through the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in Riga, Latvia where he teaches at the Lutheran Academy and serves as a missionary pastor to the area.

PASTOR WESSEL

JONATHAN
WESSEL
2011-Present



Pastor Jonathan Wessel, current pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, was born on July 5, 1961 in Fairmont, Minnesota. After graduation from high school, he attended Concordia College in St. Paul where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree and then later a Master of Divinity degree from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Ordained at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Truman, Minnesota in 1988, Pastor Wessel served in several capacities before serving as the Interim Pastor at Grace Lutheran in Augusta from 2009-2011. He has been Grace's Pastor since 2011. He and his wife Patricia have one daughter Samantha.

CHURCH HISTORY

1869

Four families made up the congregation, which was formally organized by 16 charter members in 1871, followed by affiliation with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in 1880.

1921

The young people donated a 1,000 pound church bell which was rung for the first time on the 50th Anniversary of the church. This bell was replaced in 2002 with the donation of the Zion Lutheran Church, Hay Creek bell.

1973

The stained glass Ascension of Christ window was installed on the east end of the church.

1980

Due to a shortage of space, a new educational wing with church offices was added to the east side of the church. The ground breaking plow used for this construction was the same plow used to break ground for the new church in 1957. The cost of construction was \$131,000.

1986

Grace Lutheran Preschool was opened with an enrollment of 17 students. The preschool operated through 2015.

1988

The church organ was rebuilt, and the pipes were expanded from 5 ranks to 18 at a cost of \$75,000. It was dedicated in 1990.

1994

The Endowment Committee was formed, and donated money has been used through the years for Mission Projects, church renovations and community outreach.

2022

The dining hall is in the process of renovation in preparation for the 150th Anniversary of Grace Lutheran Church.

1915

A parochial school was opened for grades 1 through 8 and was offered by the congregation through 1937.

1957-1958

The congregation outgrew the existing church, so the current church was constructed at a cost of \$150,000. The dedication service was held on May 14, 1958 by Pastor Schedler and his 6 brothers.

1977

Stained glass windows replaced the original wood framed windows with the north windows representing "Our Life in Christ" and the south windows representing the "History of the World." Additional stained glass windows were placed on the basement east wall and in the balcony.

Official church records state the average attendance per service was 321 and The Lord's Supper was offered twice per month and at special services.

1983

Women of the congregation were granted the right to vote on congregational matters once their membership was approved by the church council.

1987

The church deeded the land across Bridge Creek to the City of Augusta resulting in the establishment of the Grace-Markquardt Park in 1992.

1992

The Helen Schroeder Memorial Library was established.

2000

Up to the present, various church projects were completed including several painting projects, flooring and carpet replacement, landscaping, heating updates, steel roof installation and many others.

REMEMBERING 1871-1900



1869 Early in 1869 Mr. Stubbe married Miss Rosenau at Bears Grass Church. Mrs. Zank was present and asked the Reverend Friederich to come to Augusta and conduct services. The first congregational members were the families of Christoph Zank, August Zank, John Roseneau, and John Rick. Later that year the number of residents was increased by four families – Fred Bethke, Daniel Erdman, John Luedtke, and Gustav Karpinsky.

1873 Seven individuals were confirmed this year. Forty contributing members pledged themselves to cash payments and deliveries of oats for the salary of the pastor and upkeep of his horse.

1875 A small church was erected and then destroyed by a storm before it was completed. Members rebuilt what was the parish hall/parochial school.

1877 Minutes indicate the purchase of the old parsonage from J. M. Hackett for \$350. Repairs and rearrangement totaled \$271. Grace Church paid 2/3, and St. Peter's paid 1/3.

1880 Parishioners arrived at church by horse, wagon, or buggy. Wood or coal would have provided the heat, and candles and kerosene were used for lighting.



REMEMBERING 1901-1925



1921 On August 28, Grace Lutheran Church celebrated its 50th Anniversary. The women of the church served a lunch free of charge to all guests in the little public schoolhouse. Well over a thousand were served. Due to the large crowd, only about half of the people could be seated in the church.

The young people of Grace donated a 1,000 lb. bell to the congregation, which was used for the first time at the celebration. The inscription on the bell read "Donated by the Young People of Grace Ev. Lutheran Congregation of Augusta, Wisconsin."

The congregation had 108 voting members, 402 communicant members, and 632 souls. During those 50 years, 1088 children and adults were baptized, 549 were confirmed, 224 couples were married, and 262 persons were buried.



REMEMBERING 1926-1950



1934 Grace's Annual Meeting was held on January 15 and opened with prayer by Rev. List. This was the first time the minutes were taken in both German and English. After this meeting, all minutes were in English.

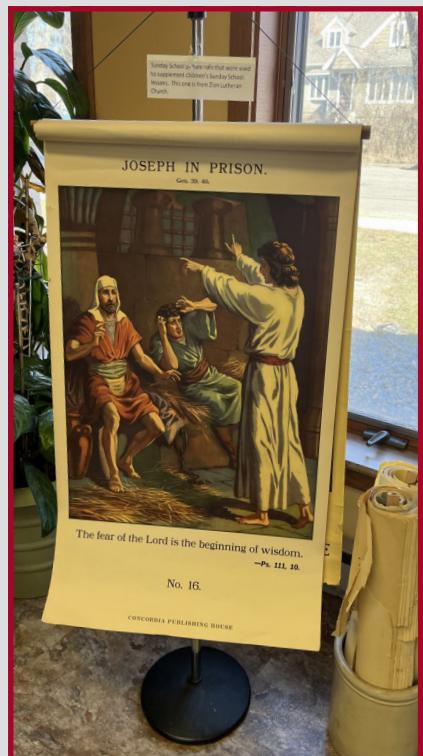
1937 On August 10 a special meeting was called regarding the parochial school. The school board asked the congregation's decision on whether or not to continue the school. After discussion, a motion was made to vote by ballot to close the school. Twenty votes were cast – fifteen in favor of the motion and five opposed. The parochial school closed.

1942 Pastor Mueller explained the need for two years of instruction for Confirmation and also drew attention to the benefits of a communion rail. The congregation changed to *The Lutheran Hymnal*.

1943 On November 17, Grace and St. Peter's signed the agreement to purchase the new parsonage. A request was made and granted that St. Peter's have one Christmas Eve service every three years beginning December 24, 1943.

1944 It was agreed to buy three picture rolls to be used in Sunday School teachings.

1949 This was the start of Vacation Bible School, which was to be held for three weeks in June from 9 AM to noon. It was decided to ring the bell upon notice of a death and that the ringing be longer for a young person with the age tolled directly thereafter. The bell was to be tolled as the funeral procession approached the church and left it.



REMEMBERING 1951-1975



1955 German services ended due to the ability of all to read and understand English.

1959 Motion made that all ladies of our congregation automatically become members of our ladies' organization as soon as they are married or at the age of 21.

1960 Discussion held on the holding of joint services with St. Peter's of Bear's Grass on Christmas, New Year's, and perhaps, Good Friday.

1969 It was determined to have a mortgage burning for the loan taken out to build the church in 1957 on September 7 along with Mission Festival on the same Sunday along with a possible potluck dinner.

1972 Grace started the use of the individual cups along with the common cup while the elders would help the Pastor with distributing the individual cups.

1975 At the January 14 Annual Meeting, it was reported that Grace Lutheran had 753 baptized members, 526 confirmed members, and 286 families.





1983 The recommendation was made to obtain a DCE for the coming year; Virginia Geier was hired.

1986 Motion carried to recommend to voters that we have acolytes consisting of 9th grade boys and girls who were recently confirmed.

1987 A motion carried to pad the backs and seats of the pews at a cost of \$7,084. A motion carried to prepare a supplemental hymnal to be used at Grace.

1993 Altar Guild was permitted to set up for communion beginning in January.

1994 The total members as of September were 784 baptized and 594 communicant.

1996

Motion made to conduct the "New Sounds" service at the 9 AM service starting on the first Sunday in November. Thus, the Praise Team began. Mission budget for 1997 was set at \$23,000.

1997 Selling price for the parsonage was set at \$74,900. Motion carried to give the Trustees authority to get bids to remodel the old coat room into a kitchenette/Altar Guild room, which was completed later.

1999 Preschool Graduation was held on Ascension Day. This year 21 children attended and 15 graduated.



First Preschool Class

REMEMBERING 2001- 2022



2001 It was resolved that Grace Lutheran Church call the Rev. Neal MacLachlan of Ladysmith to fill the Pastoral Assistant for Spiritual Care position. Zion Lutheran Church in Hay Creek closed on October 25, and members were transferred en masse to Grace Lutheran Church.

2002 Voters approved reducing the Board of Elders from 12 positions down to 6 positions.

2004 Grace's sister congregation St. Peter's in Bears Grass closed on July 25.

2007 The *Lutheran Service Book* became the new hymnal for Grace Lutheran Church.

2008 Motion carried to replace the backings of the crocheted hangings at the front of the church with the same fabric that is behind the cross.

2020 The Pandemic hit and affected many aspects of Grace's way of life. Drive-in parking lot services would continue until the Governor lifted the restrictions. This was done with the use of Steve Strey's Auctioneer truck. Communion with a packaged wine and wafer became the norm. Hand sanitizer and masks were expected. Canceled – VBS, the church picnic, Camp Luther, etc. Devotions were held on Facebook.

2021 The Church Council and the Fellowship Committee will work together on the planning of the 150th Anniversary Celebration. The youth are raising money, including a quilt raffle, to attend the Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas by hosting a Palm Sunday Brunch.



Bridal Show



Easter Service



Renovation Team

Front Row: Wendy Stensen, Carol Brevik, Mark Brevik, Dayle Travis, and Brent Dickinsen
Back Row: Pastor Wessel, Darrel Reetz, Rob Larson, and Jason Hanson



Christmas Eve Service



Fellowship Committee

Front Row: Amanda Travis, Debbie Dickinsen, and Leslie Strey
Back Row: Dawn Travis, Kris Sell, and Judy Lane
Absent: Jody and Stephanie Fabian



All Saint's Day

THEN & NOW



Algean & Don
Strauch



Parochial School



Educational Wing

IN APPRECIATION

To the faithful pastors and members of the past
who laid the foundations on which we build today.

To the various committees, who helped with renovation, gatherings, and everyday operations of the church. Especially the Basement Renovation Committee and the Fellowship Committee who spent countless hours preparing for this day. Many thanks to Abby Randall, our Editor, whose spirited willingness to help and whose graphic art skills resulted in two publications – the Church Directory and the history booklet for Grace Lutheran Church's 150th Anniversary.

To those whose gifts and memorials made the Fellowship Hall and basement area an inviting and attractive location to study, socialize, and continue the work of the Lord.

To all who attended today to celebrate the
150th Anniversary of Grace Lutheran Church of Augusta, WI.

To the Lord who has made all of this possible.

We are blessed to share this day with you, and we send our thanks to you all.

