



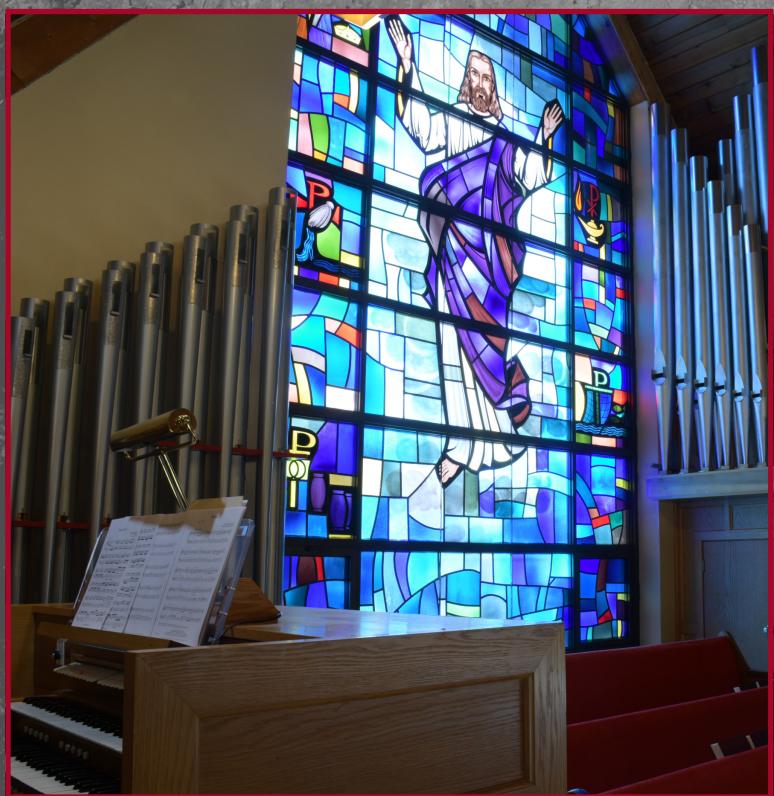
1887-1888



2022

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Augusta, Wisconsin
2022 Directory

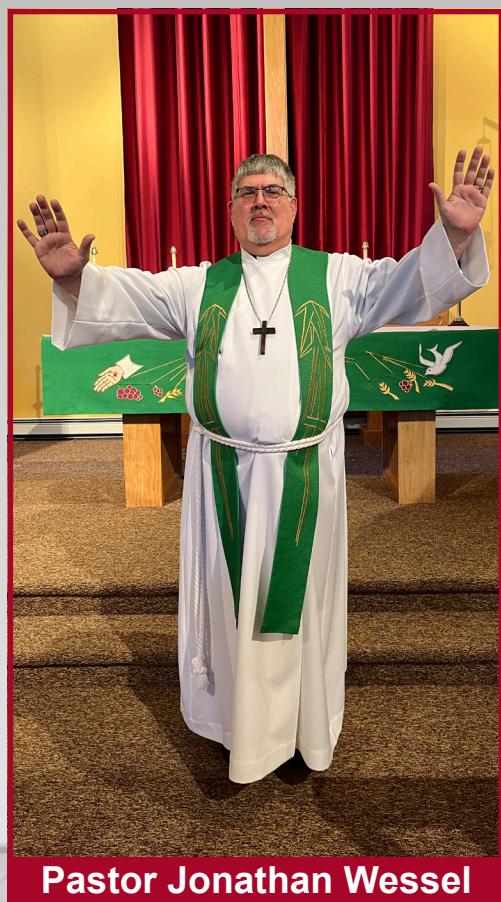


Hall of Confirmands



Confirmation Class of 2021

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Pastor Jonathan Wessel

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

EBENEZER – THUS FAR THE LORD HAS HELPED US.

Ebenezer was a reminder of the Lord's power and protection. The "stone of help" marked the spot where the enemy had been routed and God's promise to bless His repentant people had been honored. The Lord had helped them, all the way to Ebenezer. (1 Samuel 7 tells the story).

Many church histories have been written with this name. When you look at our church building, we give thanks that "thus far has the Lord helped us." It is only by grace that Grace has stood for 150 years.

Grace has come a long way from that first request made at a wedding to come to Augusta and hold services. Many blessings and, we must confess, hardships have come in these past years. There have been years of plenty and years of want. The pages of our history show us, in spite of this, we have continued to do the work that God has given us. You will see statistics of baptisms, weddings and funerals. This congregation is more than all of that. It is about Jesus and His love for us and sharing that message to all.

Jesus preached the Good News. In fact, Jesus is the Good News. We are poor, miserable sinners who can not save ourselves. Jesus came as one of us to obey God's Law and die for our sins and be raised to life on the third day. He went back to His heavenly home, the firstborn of those who have fallen asleep. We now live with each other in this repentance and forgiveness. We live doing the good which God prepared for us to do before the foundation of the world.

For 150 years this has been the message that we proclaim with Paul: "NIV 1 Corinthians 2:2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

On this page you see the names of those pastors who have served Grace and St. Peter's congregations. I have been privileged to serve in this line. We all, like Paul wanted to "know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." This is our hope for today and bright hope for tomorrow, that blessed time when we will join all the saints who have laid the foundation for us. And we will be standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb saying the great "Amen".

May our gracious Father, for Jesus' sake, empower us by the Spirit to go "forward in grace" as we continue to say "thus far has the Lord helped us".

In the service of Christ, I remain,

Rev. Jonathan A. Wessel

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.



Covid Parking Lot Service - Spring 2020



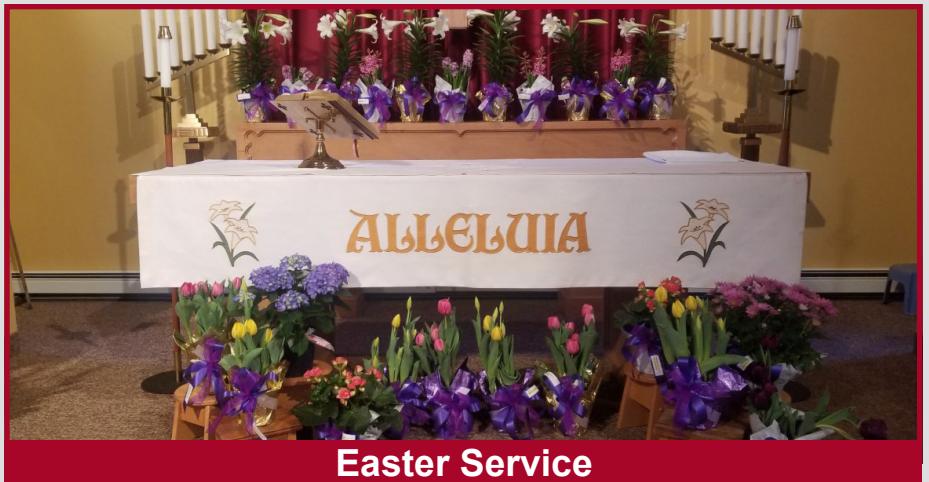
**We Gather
Together to
Ask the Lord's
Blessings.**
- Adrianus Valerius. 1597



Officer Installation



Church Picnic



Easter Service



Children's Christmas Program



Children's Message



Christmas Eve Service

ORGANIZATIONS

***“Well done, good
and faithful servant!”***
- Matthew 25:21



Men's Choir



Bible Study



Ladies' Society



Quilting



Sunday School



Church Council



Youth Group



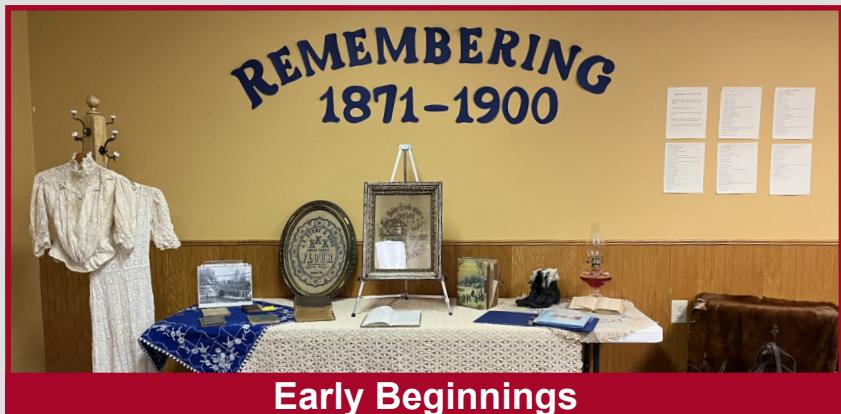
Altar Guild



Dartball



Farmers' Market



Early Beginnings

FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES



Christmas Dinner



Baptismal Remembrance



Mother's Day



Father's Day



Memorial Day



Bridal Show



Serving Meal for Back-to-School Night



Landscaping Project - 2017



Kids Teaching Kids

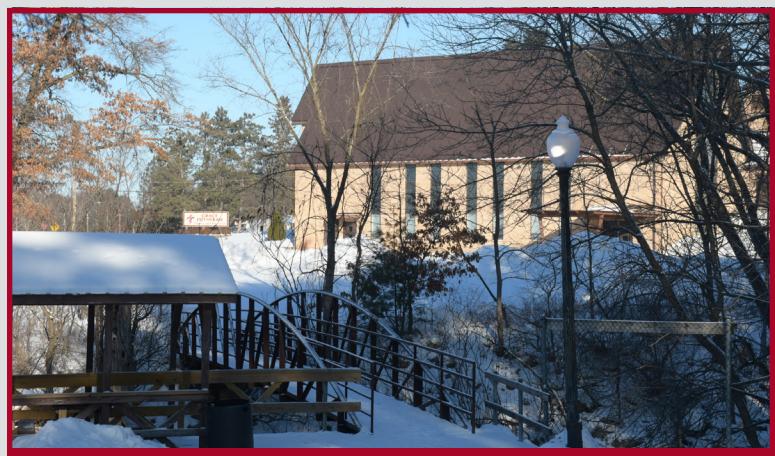


Coffee Hour

CONGREGATION IN ACTION



Congregation - 2022



View from Grace-Markquardt Park



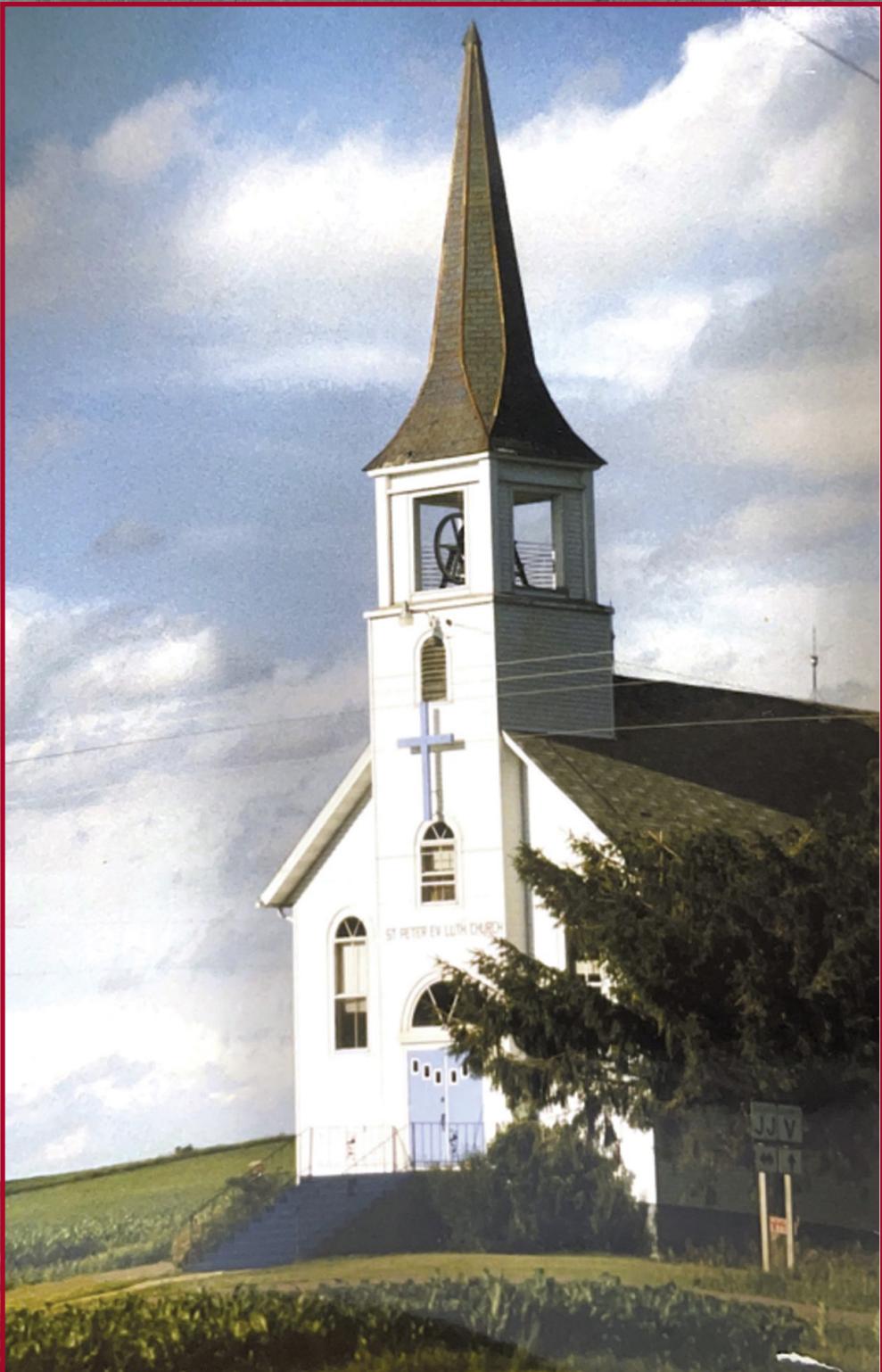
Father's Day Activity - 2019



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

As of December 31, 2021





St. Peter's Lutheran Church - 1893

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”

- 1 Peter 4:10