

1865

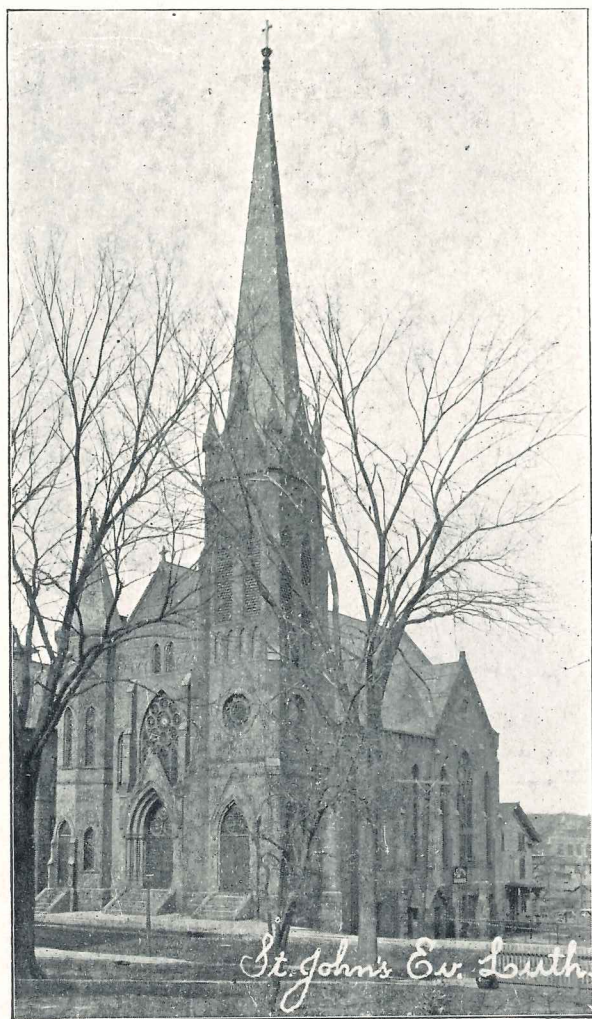
1940

75th
Anniversary

St. John's
Ev. Lutheran Church
Meriden, Conn.



November 24, 1940



ST. JOHN'S is situated on the corner of Liberty and Norwood Streets. It is Gothic in architecture. Its lofty spire points like a giant finger to the heavens toward which our earthly pilgrimage is tending and where we shall be with our Savior forever.

Foreword

ST. JOHN'S seventy fifth anniversary marks another important milestone in its long and varied history. For us who love St. John's it is an occasion of sincere joy coupled with Christian humility and Christian gratitude.

As we review our congregation's history with its small beginnings and early struggles, its failures and successes, in the light of God's mercies, that have been new every morning — who among us is not constrained to exclaim with the inspired singer of God: "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad"? And when we recall to our minds, how utterly undeserving of God's favors we have often been, we lift up our hearts unto the Lord in humble gratitude, confessing: "We are not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which Thou hast shewed unto Thy servants."

For seventy five years St. John's has, by the mighty grace of God, held aloft the Word of the Cross in church, school, home, and community. Visibly the Lord hath blessed and defended us; streams of His mercy from the heavens He hath sent us. Therefore let us praise the Lord and ponder anew, what the Almighty can do, if with His love He befriend us.

In contrite spirit and grateful faith let us never forget: The Lord was and is with us; let us abide in Him.

May St. John's become more and more a great missionary institution for the blessed cause of our adorable Savior Jesus Christ. May it serve the community in true Christian love toward its fellow-men, motivated by a living faith in the living Christ.

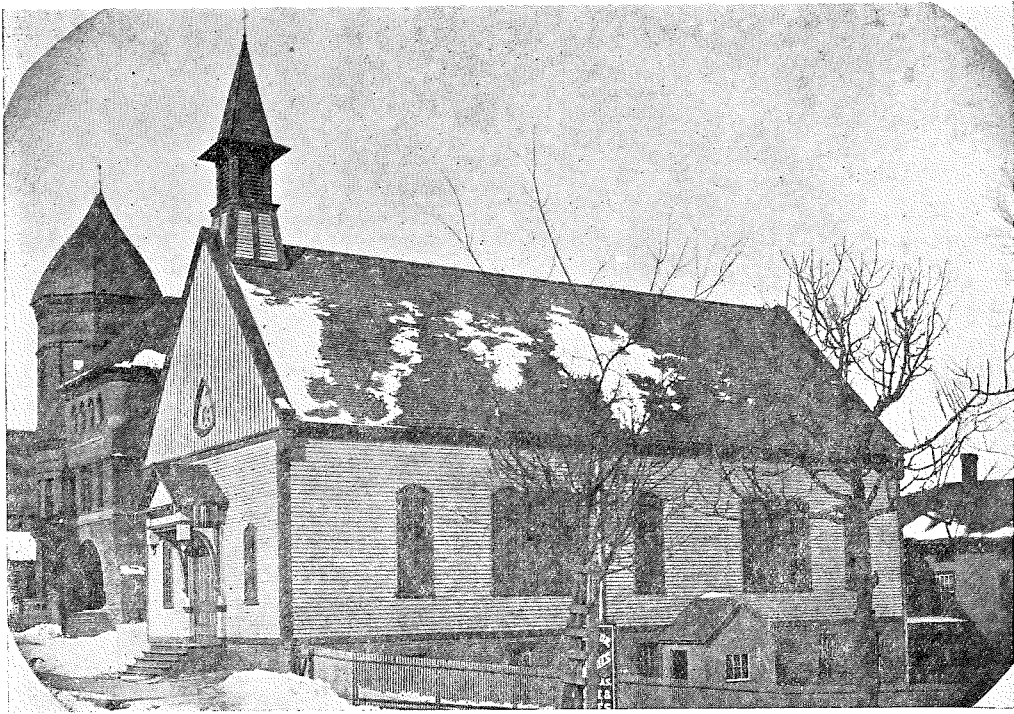
In preparation for its seventy-fifth anniversary St. John's undertook an extensive program of renovations. Why do we wish to make our church beautiful? Because God, our heavenly Father, dwells there by means of His Word and Sacraments. Having such an Honored Guest we want to make our sanctuary beautiful.

To all who by their contributions of thought and time, of work and prayer, of gifts and money have helped in building, maintaining and beautifying St. John's church and school — the pastor expresses his sincere thanks.

PASTOR PAUL WOY.



REV. PAUL WOY



ORIGINAL CHURCH—Dedicated March 5, 1867

Historical Sketch

ST. JOHN'S was founded on Sunday, November 26, 1865 in a meeting held in the courtroom of the local Town Hall.

It is interesting to note that the members of the Episcopal Church, then located on S. Broad Street, gave the first impetus to the founding of St. John's. Hoping that the Lutherans of Meriden could be induced to purchase their property, they requested the Pennsylvania Synod to send a pastor to Meriden to look into the matter of establishing a Lutheran Congregation. The upshot of this exploration was the formal organization of St. John's.

The Rev. G. Guericke became the first pastor of St. John's. His pastorate was brief. August 11, 1866 he resigned.

October 11, 1866 the Rev. G. A. Schmidt of Utica, N. Y. succeeded to St. John's pastorate. During his ministry the congregation built and dedicated its original church March 5, 1867. In June 1869 Pastor Schmidt resigned to become Chaplain of Wards Island, N. Y.

August 16, 1869 Pastor Graeber of Rockville, Conn. assumed the ministerial duties of St. John's. About the same time the congregation resolved to sever its connection with the New York Ministerium, and to affiliate itself with the Missouri Synod. Under his leadership the congregation grew in leaps and bounds. Soon the church and school became too small. April 13, 1879 the congregation decided to build an addition. September 17, 1886 Pastor Graeber resigned accepting the chaplaincy of the Home for the Aged in Brooklyn, N. Y.

The congregation now called Pastor A. Krafft of Ohio who served till July 1890. During his tenure of office St. John's Parochial School was established in 1886. Humanly speaking the congregation would not be what it is to-day, if it were not for its school. Thanks to our teachers, past and present, our school enjoys the recognition of the local School Board. May it continue to serve St. John's in the Christian education of our children. During Pastor Krafft's ministry an opposition congregation was organized as the result of the severance of 36 members from St. John's. His faithful service was terminated when he followed a call to Canada. Thus ended a sad chapter in the history of St. John's.

Pastor Wm. F. Koepchen of New Haven succeeded Pastor Krafft. His induction into office August 10, 1890 marked a bright chapter in St. John's history. November 27, 1890 the congregation celebrated its 25th anniversary and began to plan a new church building. With courageous faith and great sacrifices the members set themselves to their new task. During the removal of the old church and the erection of the new, the congregation worshiped in the Town Hall. March 13, 1892 the new beautiful edifice was dedicated — truly, a great achievement.

In May 1896 the congregation acquired land for a cemetery — our present beautiful Gethsemane Cemetery. In 1897 the present parsonage was purchased. In 1938 it was completely remodeled into a beautiful modern residence. After a successful pastorate of ten years the intimate ties between Pastor Koepchen and St. John's were severed, when he accepted the call to St. Luke's of New York.

Pastor S. F. Glaser became Pastor Koepchen's successor. March 29, 1900 he was installed into office. During his long and blessed ministry many improvements were made. An excellent organ was installed; English services were introduced; the present duplex envelope was adopted; the parsonage was enlarged; the various societies of the Congregation built and equipped the Parish Hall in the rear of the parsonage — a much needed addition for their activities and meetings.

In 1938 the Ladies' Aid added a fine kitchen fully equipped with modern conveniences, and also built a fine garage for the pastor's car directly under the kitchen.

For the fiftieth anniversary the members reconditioned the exterior and interior of their church and celebrated the Golden Jubilee in a church leaving little to be desired in churchly appointments.

In the fall of 1937 the congregation was shocked when after a short illness its faithful shepherd Pastor S. F. Glaser was suddenly called home after having served Saint John's for 37 years.

During the vacancy Prof. Paul Woy of Concordia Collegiate Institute, Bronxville, N. Y. filled the pulpit. March 1938 after the congregation had called him for the second time he felt constrained to accept and was inducted into office the following June.

May the Lord who has been with St. John's these 75 years breathe a blessing over our anniversary joy and continue His gracious presence with us and our children!

ALL GLORY BE TO GOD.

Children's Service

9:30 A. M.

ORGAN PRELUDE

INVOCATION

HYMN

1

Little children come to Jesus;
Hear Him saying, "Come to Me:"
Blessed Jesus, who to save us,
Shed His blood on Calvary.
Little souls were made to serve Him,
All His holy law fulfill;
Little hearts were made to love Him;
Little hands to do His will.

2

Little eyes to read the Bible,
Given from the heav'ns above;
Little ears to hear the story
Of the Savior's wondrous love;
Little tongues to sing His praises;
Little feet to walk His ways;
Little bodies to be temples
Where the Holy Spirit stays.

RESPONSIVE READING

O Lord, open Thou my lips: And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.

O come, let us sing unto the Lord: Let us make a joyful noise unto our Lord.

I was glad when they said unto me: Let us go into the house of the Lord.

O sing unto the Lord a new song: For He hath done marvellous things.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER, AND TO THE SON, AND TO THE HOLY GHOST, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE CREED

THE LESSON

HYMN BY THE CHILDREN — "*Beautiful Savior*"

HYMN

1

Oh, what can little hands do
To please the King of heaven?
The little hands some work may try
To help the poor in misery —
Such grace to mine be given.

3

Oh, what can little eyes do
To please the King of heaven?
The little eyes can upward look,
Can learn to read God's holy book—
Such grace to mine be given.

2

Oh, what can little lips do
To please the King of heaven?
The little lips can praise and pray,
And gentle words of kindness say —
Such grace to mine be given.

4

Oh, what can little hearts do
To please the King of heaven?
The hearts, if God His Spirit send,
Can love and trust the children's Friend—
Such grace to mine be given.

5

When hearts and hands, and lips unite —
To please the King of heaven.
And serve the Savior with delight,
They are more precious in His sight —
Such grace to mine be given.

SERMON

PASTOR A. G. DICK, Paterson, N. J.

PIANO SOLO: "Impromptu op. 142 No. 2"

Franz Schubert

MISS ANITA BIBERTHALER

HYMN: (Collection)

1
Come, praise your Lord and Savior
In strains of holy mirth!
Give thanks to Him, O children,
Who lived a child on earth!
He loved the little children,
And called them to His side,
His loving arms embraced them,
And for their sake He died.

2
O Jesus, we would praise Thee
With songs of holy joy;
For Thou on earth didst sojourn
A pure and spotless boy.
Make us like Thee, obedient,
Like Thee from sin-stains free,
Like Thee in God's own temple,
In lowly home like Thee.

3
O Jesus, we would praise Thee,
The lowly maiden's son;
In Thee all gentlest graces
Are gathered into one.
Oh, give that best adornment
That Christian child can wear,
The meek and quiet spirit
Which shone in Thee so fair!

VERSICLE

The Lord be with you: And with thy Spirit.

The Lord will give strength unto His people: The Lord will bless His people
with peace.

PRAYER

AMEN

BENEDICTION

AMEN, AMEN, AMEN.

LORD'S PRAYER

DOXOLOGY

O Lord, with voices lifted
We sing our songs of praise;
Be Thou the light and pattern
Of all our childhood's days;
And lead us ever onward,
That while we stay below,
We may, like Thee, O Jesus,
In grace and wisdom grow.

POSTLUDE

German Service

11 A. M.

VORSPIEL

PASTOR: Im Namen des Vaters, des Sohnes, und des Heiligen Geistes. Amen.

Wir singen das Lied: 134

PASTOR: Der Herr sei mit euch.

GEMEINDE: Und mit deinem Geiste.

PASTOR: Heilige uns, Herr, in deiner Wahrheit. Hallelujah.

GEMEINDE: Dein Wort, is die Wahrheit. Hallelujah.

PASTOR: Lasst uns beten.

GEMEINDE: Amen.

PASTOR: Schriftlektion.

PASTOR UND GEMEINDE: Glaubensbekenntnis.

CHOR: "O Praise the Lord" *W. H. Jones*

GEMEINDE: Lied 341

PREDIGT PASTOR A. G. DICK, Paterson, N. J.

DUETT: "The Bright Beyond" *Geo. Noyes Rockwell*

MRS. AND MR. HENRY KETELHUT

GEBET

GEMEINDE: Lied 336

PASTOR: Segen.

GEMEINDE: Amen, Amen, Amen.

VATER UNSER

SCHLUSSVERS: 336 v. 3

NACHSPIEL

English Service

3 P. M.

ORGAN PRELUDE

INVOCATION BY THE PASTOR:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

HYMN

1

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord!
Be all Thy graces now outpoured
On each believer's mind and heart;
Thy fervent love to them impart.
Lord, by the brightness of Thy light
Thou in the faith dost men unite
Of ev'ry tongue and ev'ry nation;
We, therefore, sing with exultation:
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

2

Thou holy Light, Guide divine,
O cause the Word of life to shine;
Teach us to know our God aright,
And call Him Father with delight,
From error, Lord, our souls defend,
That they on Christ alone attend,
In Him with living faith abiding,
In Him with all their might confiding.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

3

Thou holy Fire, Source of rest,
Grant that, with joy and hope possessed,
We always in Thy service stay,
And trouble drive us not away.
Lord, by Thy power prepare each heart
To our weak nature strength impart,
That firmly here we be contending,
Through life and death to Thee ascend-
ing.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

RESPONSIVE READING

Pastor: Make a joyful noise unto the Lord:

Congregation: All ye lands.

Pastor: Serve the Lord with gladness:

Congregation: Come before His presence with singing.

Pastor: Enter into His gates with thanksgiving:

Congregation: And into His courts with praise.

Pastor: How amiable are Thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts:

Congregation: My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Pastor: Collect. Scripture Reading.

Pastor and Congregation: The Apostle's Creed.

CHOIR: "Behold, praise ye the Lord"

R. H. Prutting

HYMN

1
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the
King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy
Health and Salvation!
Join the full throng;
Wake, harp and psalter and song;
Sound forth in glad adoration.

2
Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things
so wondrously reigneth,
Who, as on wings of an eagle, uplifteth,
sustaineth;
Hast thou not seen
How thy desires all have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

5
Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in
me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come
now with praises before Him!
He is thy Light;
Soul, keep it always in sight,
Gladly forever adore Him!

3
Praise to the Lord, who hath fearfully,
wondrously made thee;
Health hath vouchsafed, and when
heedlessly falling hath stayed thee;
What need or grief
Ever hath failed of relief?
Wings of His mercy did shade thee.

4
Praise to the Lord, who doth visibly
bless and defend thee;
Who, from the heavens, the streams
of His mercy doth send thee;
Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee!

SERMON

PASTOR ERWIN KURTH, Brooklyn, N. Y.

SOLO: "How Beautiful upon the Mountains" *F. Flaxington Harker*

MISS ELLA RUFLETH

HYMN (Collection)

1
Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices.
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours to-day.

2
O may this bounteous God
Through all this life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

3
All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven;
The One eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore!

OFFERTORY HYMN:

We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be.
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

Pastor: The Lord be with you:

Congregation: And with thy spirit.

Pastor: The Lord will give strength to His people:

Congregation: The Lord will bless His people with peace.

Pastor: Prayer

Congregation: Amen.

BENEDICTION: Amen, Amen, Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

POSTLUDE

Immediately after this service refreshments
will be served in the Parish Hall by the
members of the Ladies' Aid Society. Our
guests and visitors are cordially invited.

PASTORS WHO HAVE SERVED ST. JOHN'S

1865 — 1940

G. Guericke	1865-1866
G. A. Schmidt	1866-1869
C. A. L. Graeber	1869-1886
A. Krafft	1886-1890
Wm. F. Koepchen	1890-1900
S. F. Glaser	1900-1937
Paul Woy	1938-

TEACHERS

Wm. P. Lobenstein	1886	Wm. Baur	1903-1905
Alb. H. Miller	1886-1887	Elise Sternberg	1903-1907
Fr. v Osten	1886-1887	Margaret Nagel	1905-1914
C. A. Burgdorf	1887-1893	Albert Kalf	1907-1909
Louis Michel	1887-1888	Walter Matthes	1909-1912
Emil Noll	1888-1890	Fred Schwasz	1912-1914
Emma Neebe	1892-1900	Lydia Meinke	1914-1918
Clemens Kambeis	1893-1895	E. G. Rabe	1914-
Emma Abel	1893-1895	I. R. Sternberg	1918-
Emilie Neebe	1895-1900	Arthur Gross	1919-1921
C. A. Burgdorf	1895-1919	Albert Blume	1921-1924
Louis Burgdorf	1900-1903	Oscar Bruell	1924-1925
Pauline Damerow	1900-1903	Gerhardt Rast	1925-1926
		Arthur Niemeyer	1926-1931

PRESENT CHURCH OFFICERS

Henry C. Meinke, *Chairman*
 Henry Ketelhut, *Vice-Chairman*
 Bruno Blume, *Treasurer*
 J. E. Wusterbarth, *Financial Secretary*
 Chas. Oberempt, *Secretary*

ELDERS

Otto A. Winter Herman Ketelhut

TRUSTEES

Henry C. Meinke Bruno Blume J. E. Wusterbarth
 Edward Sorenson Charles Oberempt

DEACONS

Otto Schoenfeld	Carl Meyer	Robert Greiner	Theodore Hintz
Chas. Zimmerman	Wm. Miller	Arthur Warner	Harold Sorenson
Arthur Barnikow	Chas. Schroeder	Otto Zimmermann	Henry Brechlin

CEMETER Y BOARD

Henry C. Meinke Bruno Blume J. E. Wusterbarth Edward Sorenson
 Chas. Oberempt Herman Hoppe Wm. Fritz

SOCIETIES

The Ladies' Aid Society	organized 1866
St. John's Sick Benefit Society	organized 1877
Young People's Society	organized 1892
St. John's Men's Club	organized 1912
St. John's Scholarship Association	organized 1917
Ladies' Auxiliary	organized 1938



In the seventy five years of its existence 3262 persons have been baptized at Saint John's, 1794 have been confirmed, 946 marriages have been solemnized, and 947 burials conducted.



Nine sons of the congregation are at present pastors in the Lutheran Church: The Rev. F. W. Abel, Brooklyn, N. Y.; the Rev. R. P. Blum, Wallingford, Conn.; the Rev. Richard B. W. Brenner, Peoria, Ill.; the Rev. E. C. Burgdorf, North Bergen, N. J.; the Rev. F. J. Graeber, Aberdeen, S. Dak.; the Rev. H. W. Kratzke, Queens Village, N. Y.; the Rev. F. L. Neebe, Columbus, Mo.; the Rev. H. H. Ness, New York, N. Y.; the Rev. Geo. Zimmermann, Harrison, N. J.



On Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 1940 there will be a special service with emphasis on our seventy fifth anniversary. Do let us all take part in this service as the capstone of our anniversary celebration.



St. John's Family Night, December 3, 1940, 7:45 P. M. for all members will bring our anniversary festivities to a close. There will be refreshments, entertainment and speeches. Neighboring pastors have been invited to attend and to give short addresses. You are most cordially invited.

SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEES

GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS

Charles Zimmermann, *Chairman*

Arthur Warner John Wusterbarth
Herman Meinke Otto Winter

PUBLICITY

William R. Miller, *Chairman*

Harold Sorenson Charles Schroeder

PROGRAM

Theodore Hintz, *Chairman*

Christian Baur Elise Dittmer

MUSIC

E. G. Rabe I. R. Sternberg

