

# OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

125 Years of Faithfully Serving our  
Risen Savior in Merrill, Wisconsin

1885 - 2010

# Humble Beginnings...



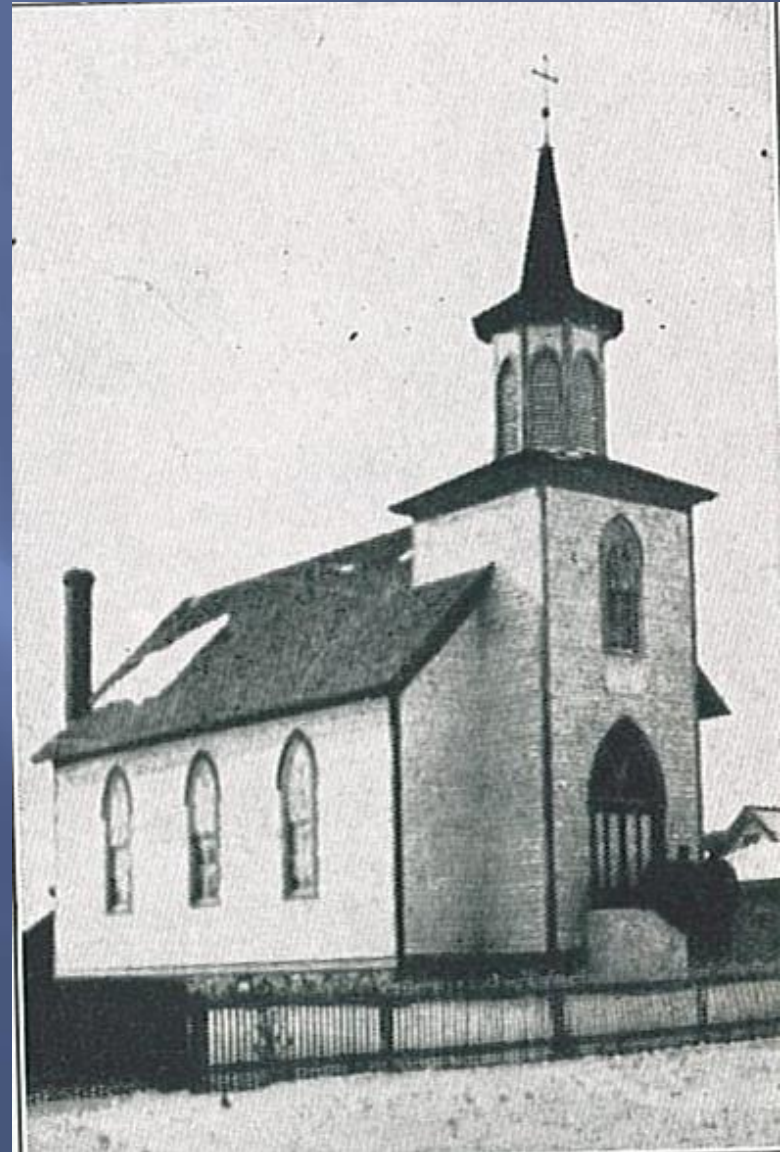
In 1879, the first worship services were held for the Scandinavian immigrants who had settled in the Merrill area.

As for me and my  
household, we will  
serve the Lord.

Joshua 24:15b

# The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Merrill (the Synod Church)

The congregation was officially formed on August 21, 1885, and in 1887 the first church building was erected on Fourth Street. Later it was moved to the lot where the parsonage now stands.





# Charter Members:

John A. Johansen

Leuis Knutson

Gabriel Stephensor

Nels Evjue

Anton Martinsen

Ole Gunnesgaard

Mikkel Martinsen

Jacob Odegaard

Nils Anderson

John Kolstad

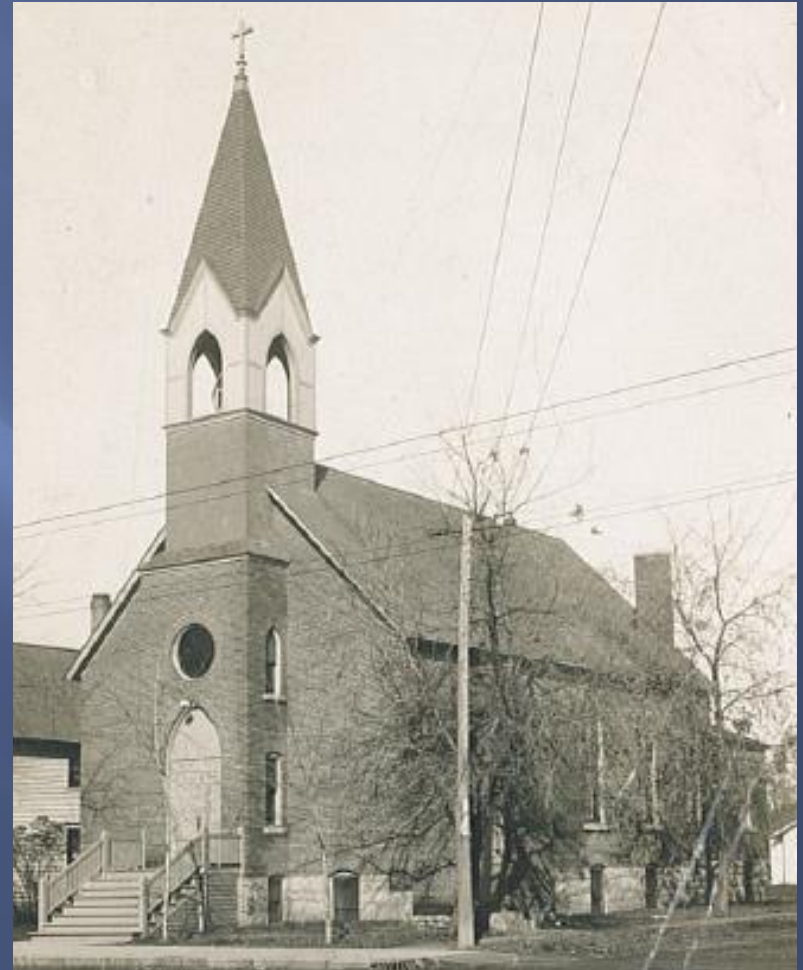
Peter Peterson

Mrs. Anna Olsen

John Lokemoen

# Zion Lutheran Church of Merrill, Wisconsin

Trouble developed in 1902, and 15 families left the church. On April 12, 1903, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church was formed. This church building was built on the corner of Second and Logan Streets.



# Zion's Charter Members:

John M. Moe

Nels Evjue

Nels M. Knutson

Jacob Odegaard

Lars Hanson

Thomas Severt

Hans H. Thompson

Gilbert Everson

Gust Olson

John Severson

Nels Anderson

Ivar Solberg

Matthew T. Johnson

Ole H. Thompson

Knudt Severt

John H. Lokemoen

Thomas Larson

Torger Erickson

Jens Johnson

Ole Kaasa

Christ Solum

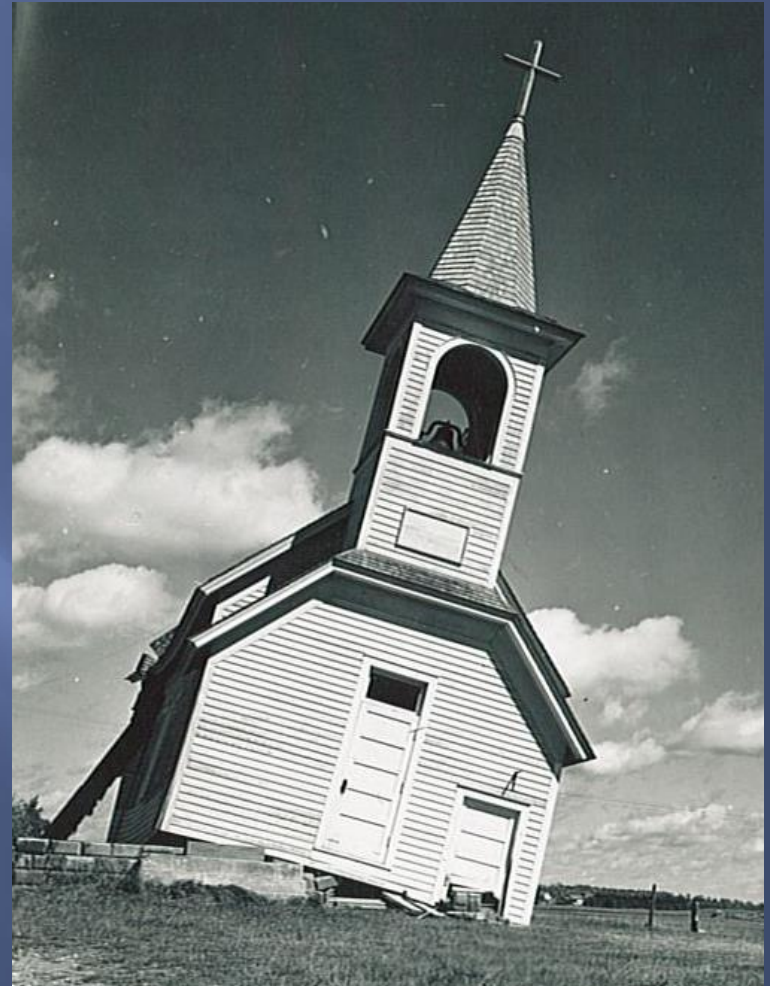


At the Evangelical Lutheran Church Synod merger in 1917, the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church reunited with Zion Lutheran Church. They agreed to worship at the Zion Lutheran site and renamed the congregation Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.



# Barnes Creek Lutheran Church

In 1915, a group of farm families also left the original Synod Church to form the Barnes Creek Lutheran Church on Highway 17. That church was damaged by a windstorm in 1941, and their congregation decided to join Our Saviour's Lutheran, rather than to rebuild.



# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

In 1975, several families from Bethlehem Lutheran Church also joined Our Saviour's in anticipation of another synodical merger. Bethlehem closed its doors in 2006 and now serves as the Merrill Historical Society.





Take heed now, for  
the Lord has chosen  
you to build a house  
as a sanctuary; be  
strong and act.

I Chronicles 28:10

# Our Saviour's Sanctuary



1906



1965



The current Our Saviour's church building is located at 300 Logan Street. The sanctuary was built in 1966, and a Christian education wing was added in 1987.



**That means  
our history  
looks like  
this:**

**The Norwegian Evangelical Church  
(Synod Church) Est. 1885**

```
graph TD; A["The Norwegian Evangelical Church  
(Synod Church) Est. 1885"] --> B["Zion Lutheran Church Est. 1902"]; A --> C["Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Est. 1917"]; A --> D["Barnes Creek Lutheran Church Est. 1915"]; B --> C; E["St. James Lutheran Church - Closed 1962"] --> C; D --> C; F["Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Closed 2006"] --> C; style C fill:#ffff00
```

**Zion Lutheran  
Church Est. 1902**

**Barnes Creek Lutheran  
Church Est. 1915**

**Our Saviour's Lutheran  
Church Est. 1917**

**St. James Lutheran  
Church - Closed 1962**

**Bethlehem Lutheran  
Church - Closed 2006**

But of course, the  
church is not about the  
buildings. . . .

. . . it is about the  
people!



Through the years,  
we have been  
faithfully served  
by many  
pastors. . . .



**Rev. Paul Koren**  
**Synod Church 1885-1888**



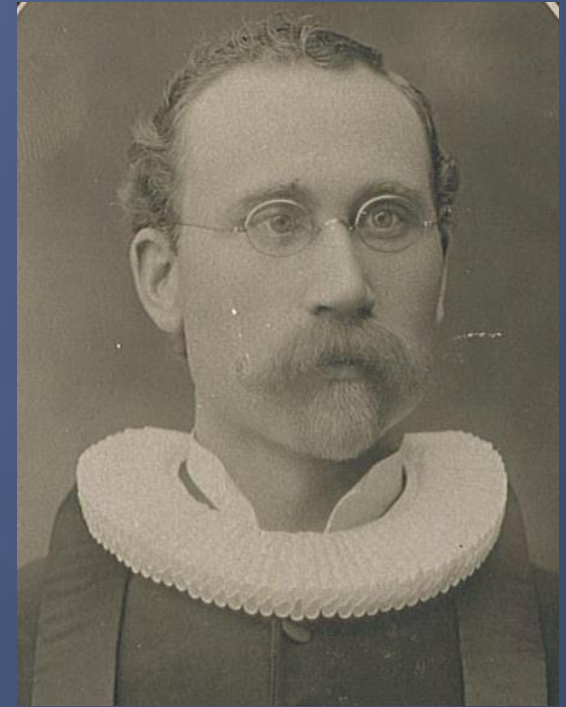
**Rev. Th. Norseth**  
**Synod Church 1892-1894**



**Rev. O. Skattebol**  
**Synod Church 1897-1899**



**Rev. J. O. Dreng**  
**Synod Church 1909-1911**



**Rev. L. O. Oien**  
**Synod Church 1901-1908**





**Rev. Ivar Ramseth**  
**Zion Church 1910-1913**



**Rev. J. H. Myrvang**  
**Synod Church 1913-1916**



**Rev. H. Madland**  
**Zion 1913-1917**  
**OSLC 1917-1918**



**Rev. J. M. Hestenes**  
**OSLC 1931-1933**

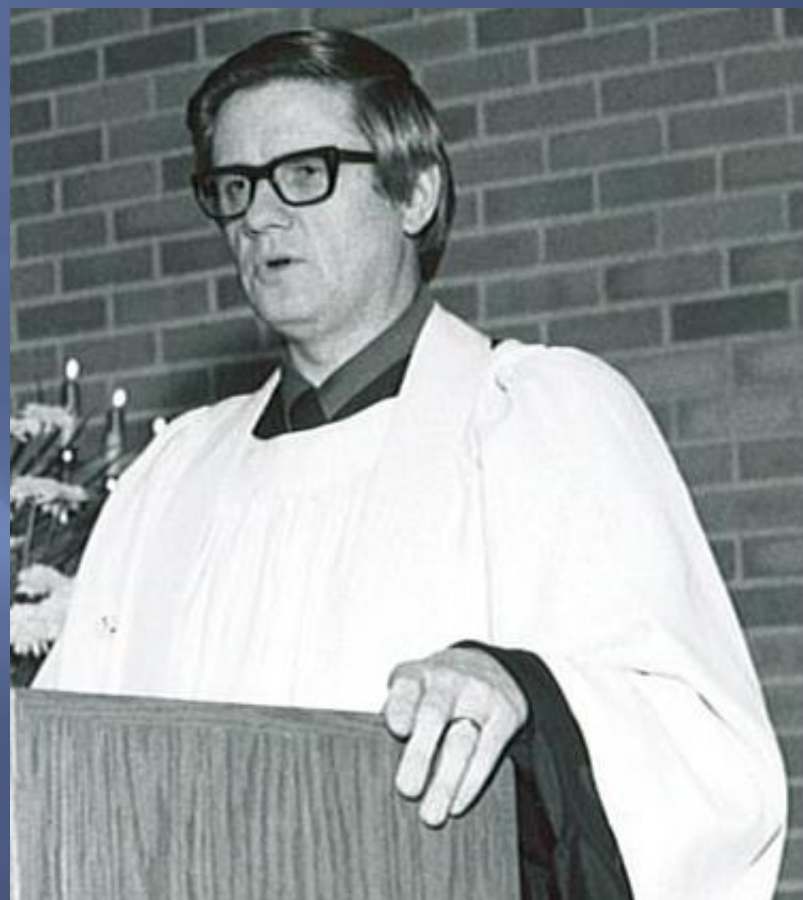


**Rev. H. A. Peterson**  
**OSLC 1934-1936**



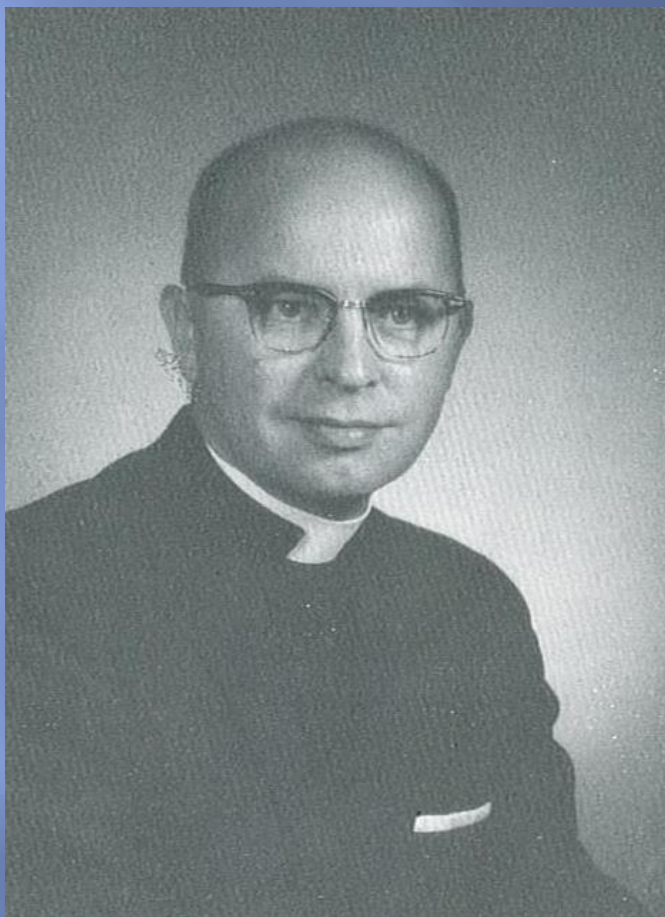


**Rev. M. H. Quail**  
**OSLC 1937-1970**



**Rev. Lindley Jacobson**  
**OSLC 1970-1972**





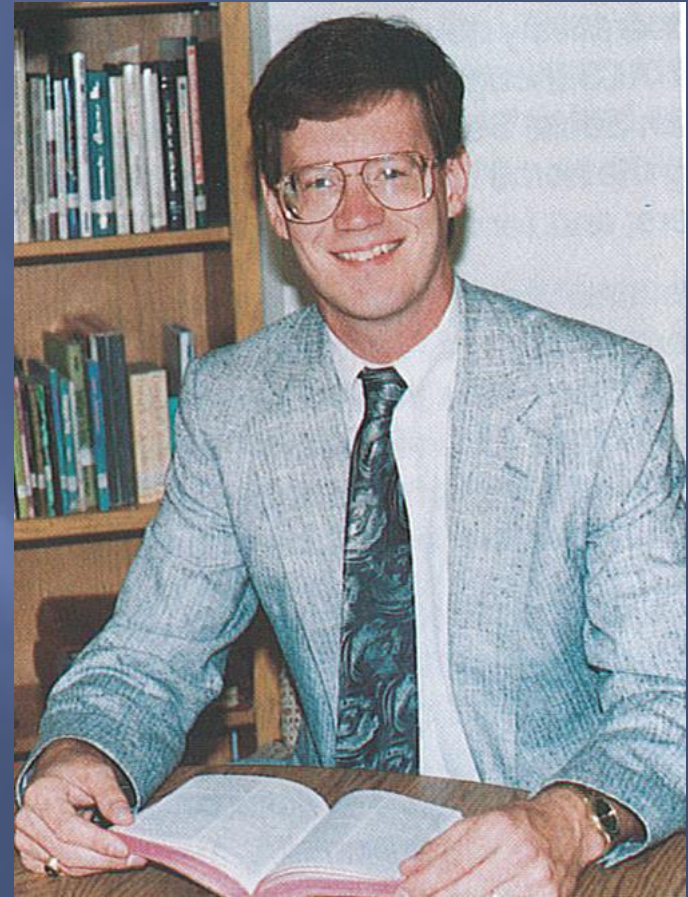
**Rev. Gerhard Bretheim**  
**OSLC 1972-1977**



**Rev. Dan Olson**  
**OSLC 1976-1988**

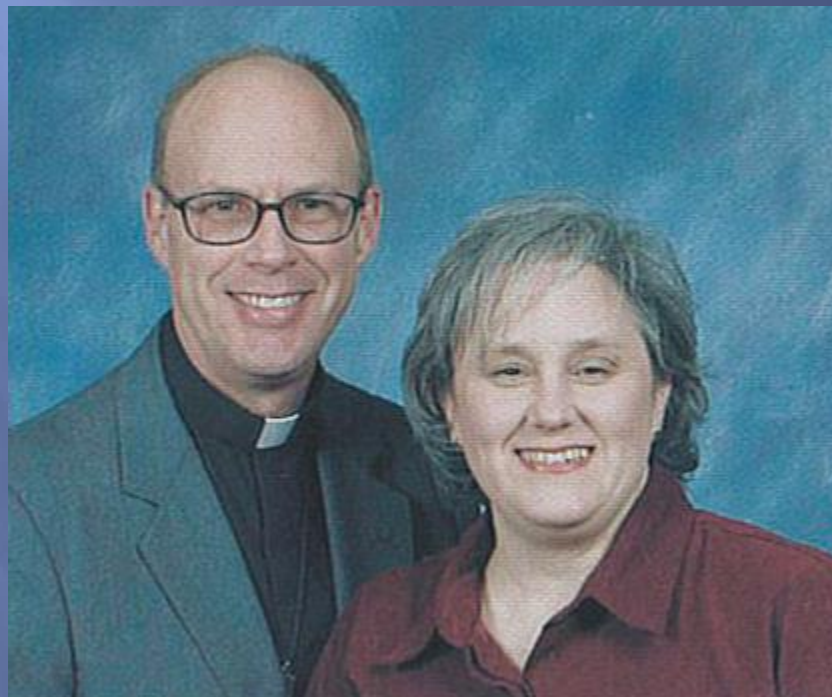


**Rev. John F. Henning**  
**OSLC 1977-2002**



**Rev. Keith W. Anderson**  
**OSLC 1989-2000**

**Rev. Ted Gulhaugen**  
**OSLC 2003-2010**





## Current OSLC Pastors

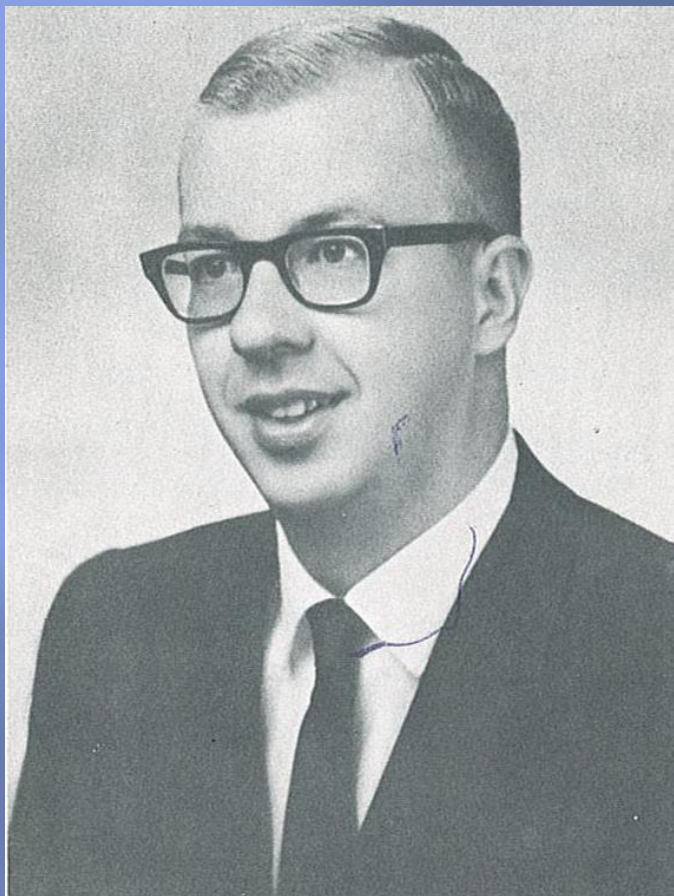


**Rev. Jeff Martinson**  
2000 - Present



**Rev. Beth Macha,**  
Intentional Interim  
February 2010 - Present

# Ordained from Our Saviour's:



**Rev. Donald Quail**  
**Ordained April 24, 1966**



**Rev. Brenda Ertl**  
**Ordained January 3, 1999**

# Ordained from Our Saviour's:



Rev. Jon Strasman  
Ordained August 9, 2003



Rev. Scott Mann  
Ordained December 27, 2008



Train up children in  
the right way, and  
when they are old,  
they will not stray.

Proverbs 22:6



# Christian Education







# C h r i s t i a n E d u c a t i o n





# c h r i s t i a n E d u c a t i o n

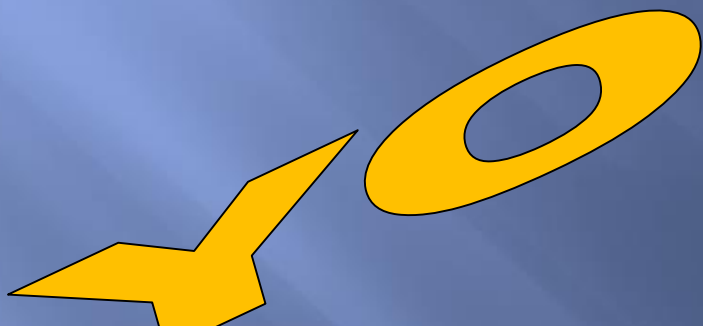






# FOOTBALL









# And More Youth



Go therefore and  
make disciples of  
all nations.

Matthew 28:19a



# Mission Sewing/Quilting





# Mission Sewing/Quilting





# Mission Trips





# Mission Trips





# Fair Stand



If you offer food to  
the hungry and  
satisfy the needs of  
the afflicted, then  
your light shall rise  
in the darkness.

Isaiah 58:10



# Church Picnics







# Church Picnics





# Lutefisk Dinner





# Lutefisk Dinner



For where two or  
three are gathered  
in my name, I am  
there among them.

Matthew 18:20



# Ladies Aid/ALCW/WELCA





# Ladies Aid/ALCW/WELCA



# Men's Club/Lutheran Men in Mission





# Men's Club/Lutheran Men in Mission



Make a joyful noise  
to the Lord, all the  
earth. Worship the  
Lord with gladness.

Psalms 100:1 - 2





# Music







# Music





# Children's Programs



But you are a chosen  
race, a royal  
priesthood, a holy  
nation, God's own  
people.

1 Peter 2:9



# Happy 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

May God continue to  
richly bless this  
congregation.

# Music for this slide show provided by ELCA recording artist, Peder Eide:

- ❖ “Be” from TASTE AND SEE, copyright 2006
- ❖ “I Thank You, Jesus” from TASTE AND SEE, copyright 2006

*\*used by permission\**



# Music for this slide show provided by ELCA recording artist, Jonathan Rundman:

❖ “Ah, Holy Jesus” from SOUND THEOLOGY  
(vol. 1), copyright 2000

❖ “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” from SOUND  
THEOLOGY (vol. 2), copyright 2000

❖ “What Wondrous Love is This” from SOUND  
THEOLOGY (vol. 2), copyright 2000

*\*used by permission\**